WRESTLING EYE

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IN DEFENSE OF THE WWF

RANDY SAVAGE & SEXY ELIZABETH

MAGNUM T.A.

CRUSHER & THE BRUISER

MISTY BLUE- WANTS TO CHALLENGE ALL

CHICAGO COMBAT THE INSIDE STORY

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WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

GREG VALENTINE

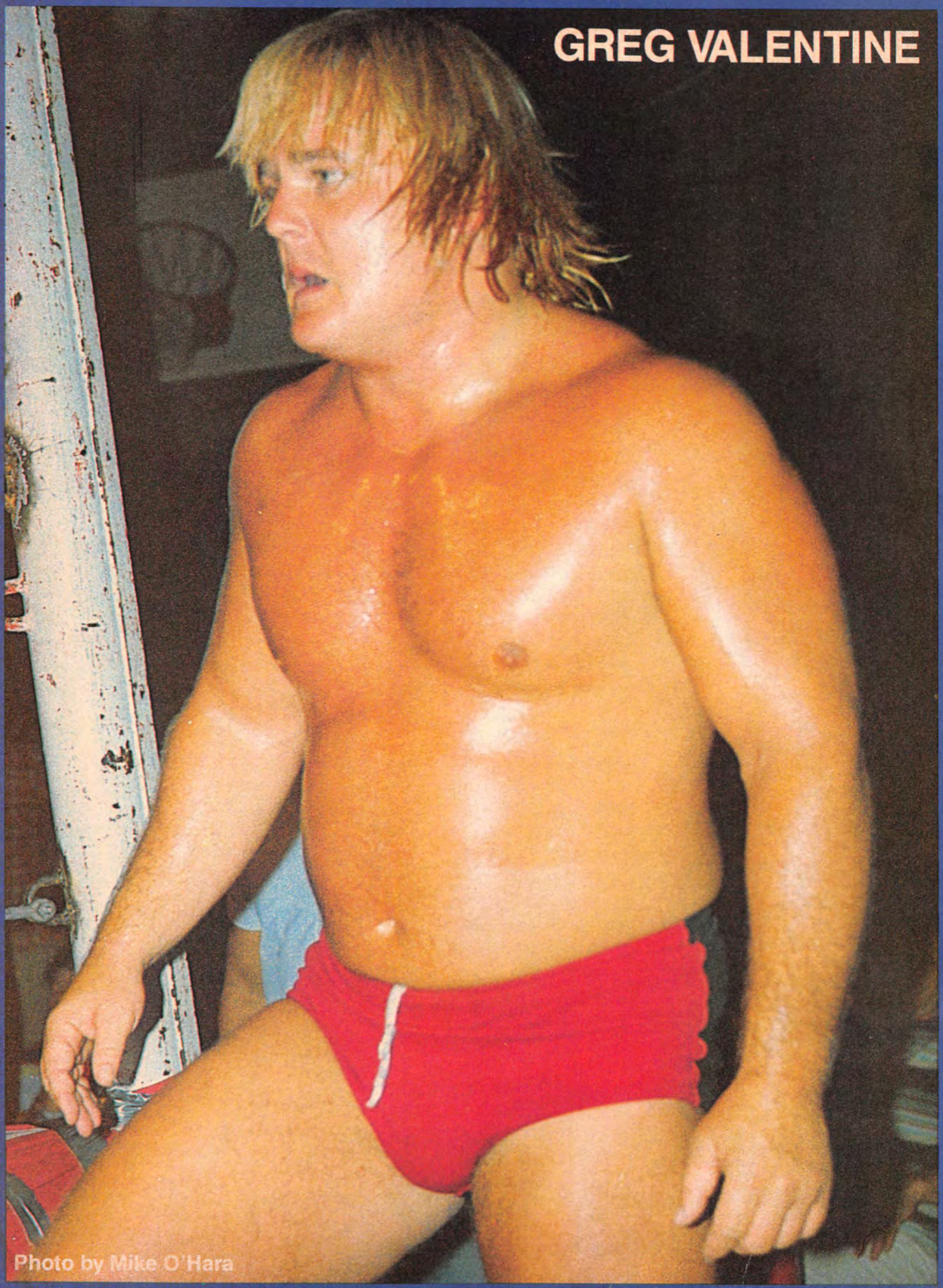


Photo by Mike O'Hara

EDITORIAL

Mandatory Retirement?

No one wants to be ordered around or told what to do. But, laws are made to protect us from ourselves, as well as others. In its current operation, pro wrestling allows a wrestler to keep going forever. Some heartless promoters see this as fair substitute for a retirement plan. True, there are some older wrestlers who are in great shape and deserve to wrestle. However, there are several older men (and women) who are way past their athletic prime.

Older wrestlers do a disservice to our sport. They stay in the ratings and prevent younger ones from moving up. These older wrestlers also tempt fate, and their deaths or injuries will only help those already wishing to abolish pro wrestling. We suggest at the age of 40, a wrestler be called in for a physical. Doctors will judge whether or not he is able to continue his career. Each case would be decided upon individually, and follow-up exams would be given annually.

All three major alliances could easily afford such a program. Their findings and decisions would then be passed on to the smaller independents to follow suit.

Mike Bellew
Managing Editor

IN DEFENSE OF THE WWF

By Mike O'Hara & Mike Bellew

Ex-champ Bob Backlund was asked to leave quietly. Bob was making $300,000.00 a year

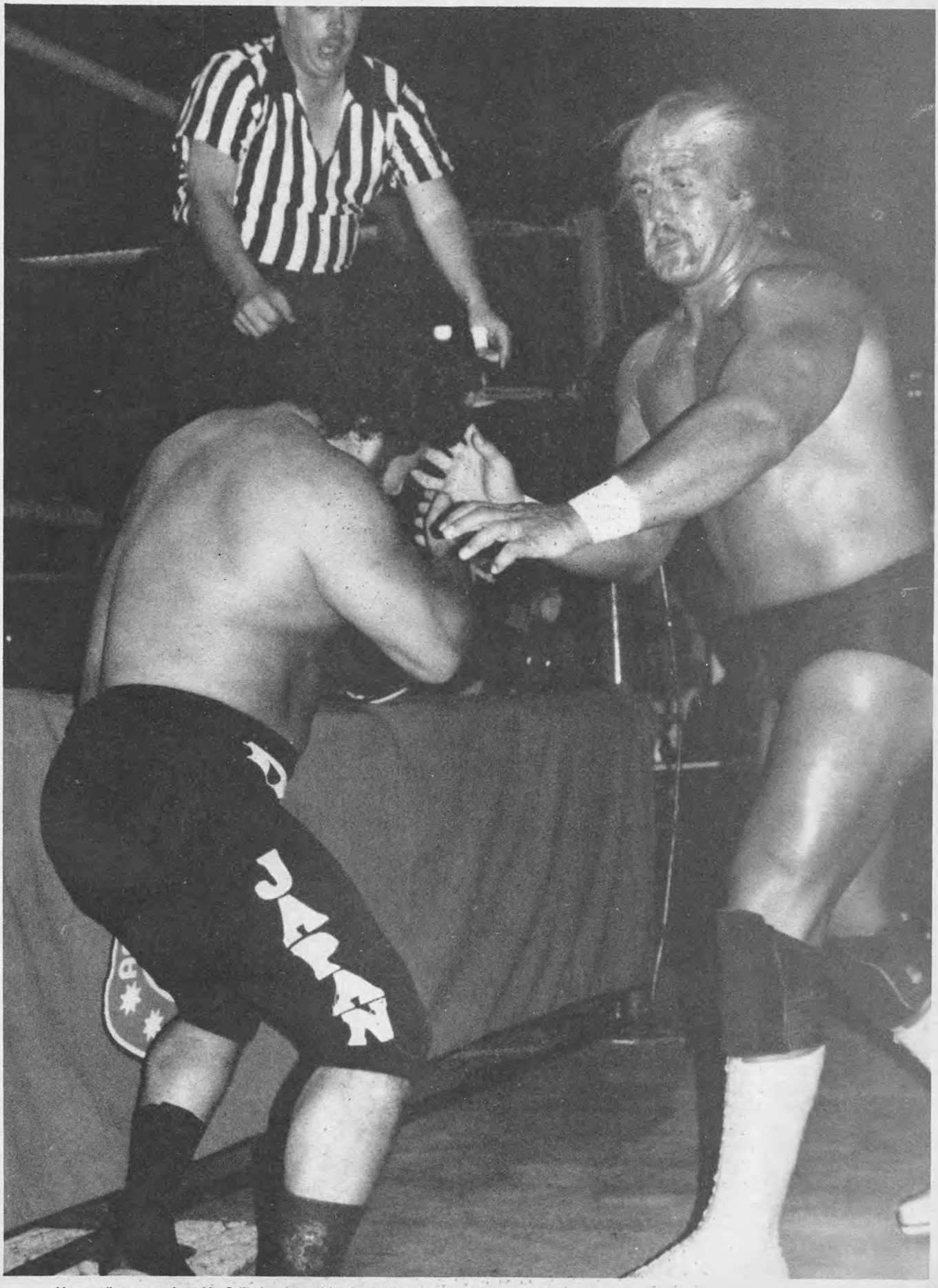
Like it or not, when you talk about pro wrestling today you're referring to Vince McMahon Jr. No other promoter in history has ever personally influenced the sport as has he. Under McMahon's direction, the WWF is no longer just a regional alliance with a token world champion. For better or worse, he has broken apart the long-standing territorial boundries of NWA and AWA.

From some two-dozen wrestlers under contract in the Sixties, the WWF (formerly the WWWF) has grown to include a roster of roughly 200 mat stars. Loyal AWA-NWA grapplers such as Jack and Jerry Brisco, Jesse Ventura, the Junkyard Dog, Roddy Piper, Paul Orndorff and Barry Windham were all eager to join the WWF following the amazing success of champ Hulk Hogan. With Vince McMahon, a wrestler has the chance to earn additional income with commercial endorsements and movie roles.

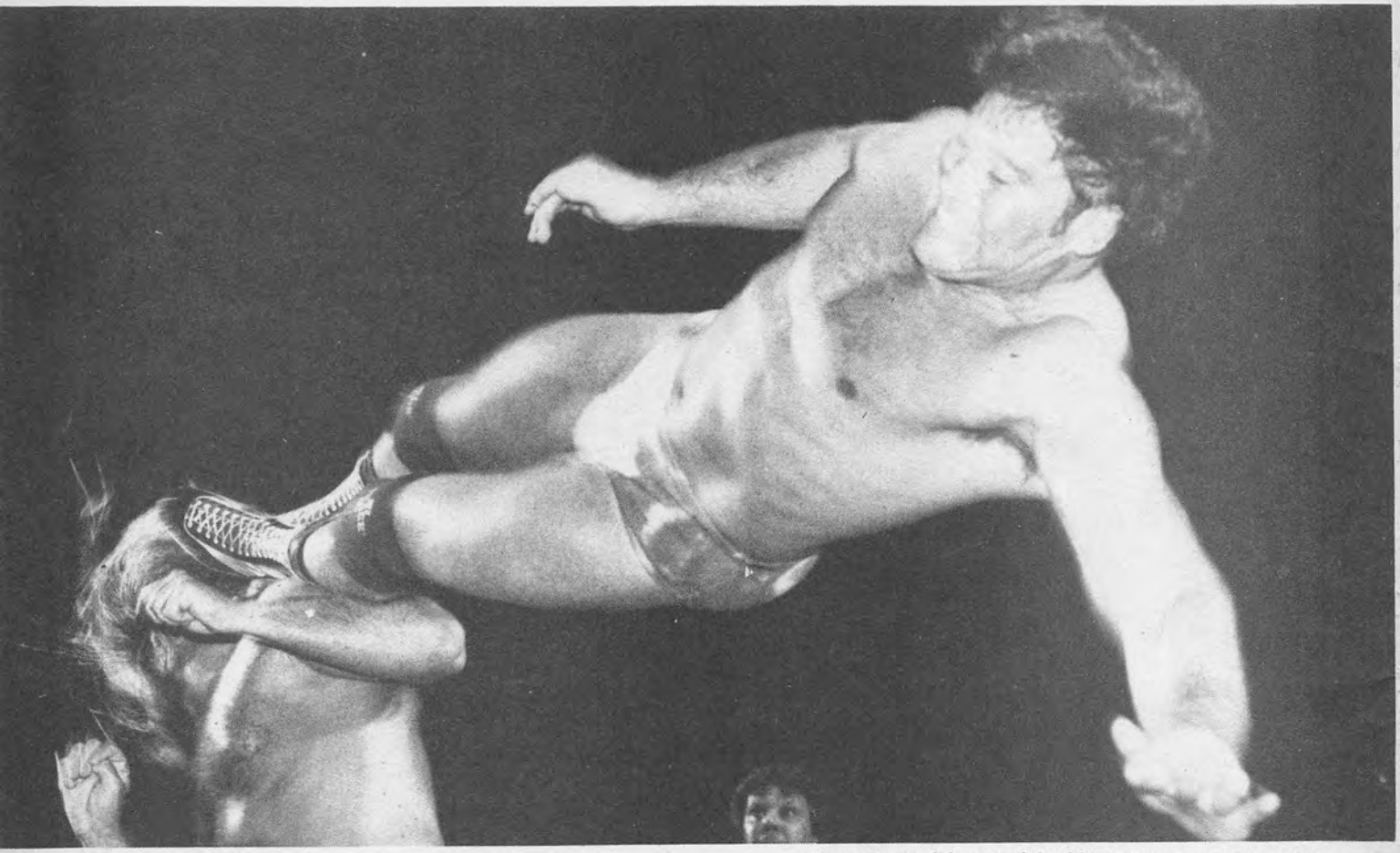
Using cable outlets and local super-stations, the WWF has whet the appetites of fans across the country, reaching over six-million households. This is a far cry from the days when the Federation was only seen on a few Spanish-speaking UHF stations. Television time doesn't come cheap, and McMahon obviously believes in spending money to make money. Since his shows and cards are now seen in other territories, outside promoters see him as a threat to the established system. They preferred it when the WWF stayed on the East coast and they ruled the lion's share.

It's true that McMahon has ended the free-flow of wrestlers between the three alliances. He expects his wrestlers to stay with him while he markets dolls and toys made in their likenesses. His two sets of WWF dolls were big sellers last Christmas , far outselling the collection of AWA characters. Interesting to note in the New York City area, the WWF's *Wrestling Album* is ranked 7 of the top 20 selling LP's in the area. The Videos have also done very well. He also has a new board game and sets of puzzles out by the Milton Bradley Company, & 7 - 11, the nationwide convenience store, has the WWF wrestlers on a plastic drinking cup free with every 32 oz. order of Pepsi! Some purists believe McMahon has put hype and money above wrestling ability. They believe Vince is over-using Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff, while neglecting talented wrestlers like the British Bulldogs.

You might expect a wrestling magazine to bear a grudge with Vince McMahon Jr. Afterall, the WWF has barred outside reporters and photographers from ringside. The Federation will not permit anyone, but their own people to 'officially' cover their cards. This has made other magazines drop or limit their WWF coverage. WRESTLING EYE's opinion is that McMahon is infringing on the First Amendment and the rights of a Free Press. However, at the same time, he is the promoter and has legal rights of ownership which we must respect. He can ban who he sees fit to. If anything, Vince has

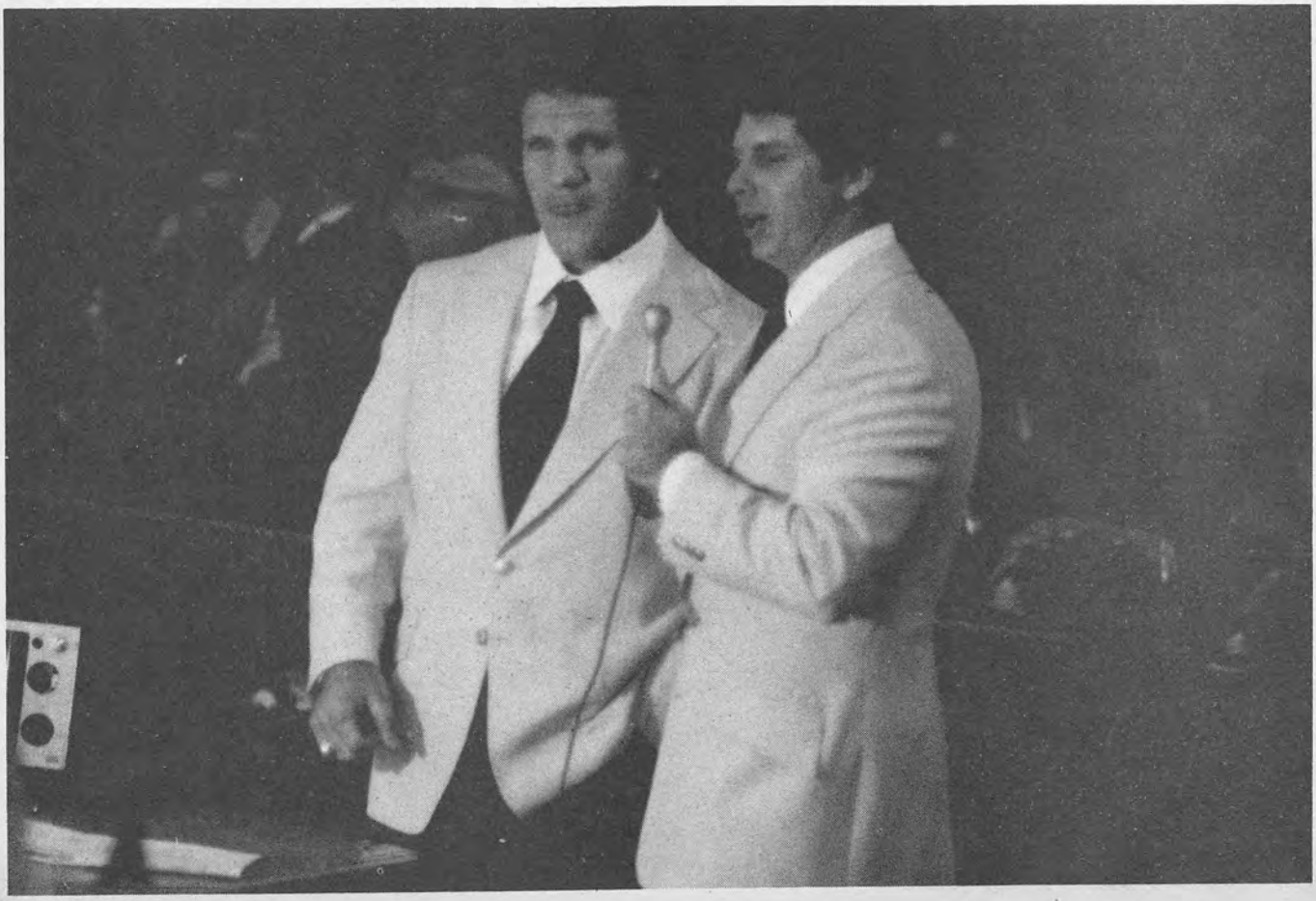


Hogan (here, against Mr. Saito) ushered in the 'video era of the WWF



Jimmy Brunzell is one of the 200 mat starts with the WWF.

Vince McMahon Jr. shares the spotlight with ex-champ, Bruno Sammartino.



created more enemies rather then silencing his critics.

Some performers are starting to come out and speak against the unfair labor practices of various wrestling groups. Wrestlers such as Eddie Mansfield, Ron "Magnificent Zulu" Pope, Jim Wilson, Bearcat Wright, Rock Hunter and Thunderbolt Patterson have painted a pretty depressing picture of what goes on in the business of wrestling as a professional. So far, there have been no accusations pointed at the WWF camp.

Here's a point to ponder—if wrestlers are being treated fairly and paid well, why are so many of them "jumping ship" to the WWF when the opportunity presents itself? Why are many of the younger grapplers leaving promotions to work for the WWF in direct opposition to the promoters who, in most cases, trained them and gave them their first break in the ring? As for the established wrestlers, many have signed with WWF because the money was too good to pass up. While wrestlers have a longer career span than a boxer or football player, they are also in short term professions and must make as much as they can while they can.

At 39, Vince is a third-generation sports promoter. His grandfather, Jesses, formed the first boxing card ever presented at Madison Square Garden. Vince McMahon Sr., started his career as a producer/promoter in 1955. He also worked as the Garden's wrestling matchmaker during the Fifties. In 1963, McMahon Sr. organized the World Wide Wrestling Federation with Buddy 'Nature Boy' Rogers as it's first heavyweight champ. Vince Jr. took control after his father's death. Insiders, like promoters Bob Giegel, Baba, Mike Graham and Verne Gagne frown upon Vince's lack of actual wrestling experience. 'I wanted to (wrestle),' said McMahon in the Globe interview. 'But, my dad wanted me to do something else. Any form of sports entertainment can be risky and he wanted something better for me. He was adamantly opposed to it. It was something along the lines of over my dead body.'

'I really wanted to participate in some fashion, and during the summer I began putting up wrestling rings, taking tickets and so on!

The man behind the mike is also the man behind the scene. Vince (here. with Lou Albano) is a third-generation wrestling promoter.

In 1979, McMahon, while still handling his role as TV commentator, began promoting rock concerts in New England. In doing so, he noticed the similarities between rock bands and wrestlers. Both used heavy symbolism, outlandish costumes and both appealed to teenagers. This mental image stayed with Vince when he assumed control of the WWF in 1982. His matches would rely on young wrestlers and rock music. Aside from signing Hulk Hogan, McMahon was the first to gain access to MTV. His top wrestlers all had theme songs. For example, Hulk had 'Eye of the Tiger', Rotundo and Windham marched to 'Born In The U.S.A.' and Wendi Richter told us all, 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun'. Older fans might have been turned off, but more fans tuned in.

This has erupted into a hornet's nest of controversy with the WWF's attempt at linking wrestling with other unrelated mediums of entertainment such as rock music and children's animated programming. However from an objective standpoint, the WWF has a right to try and expand its market with wider demographics as they see fit.

Change is essential to survival. Those that can adapt live on and grow stronger, those who can't, perish. A hundred-years ago, Frank Gotch and Farmer Burns held each other in hammerlocks and cross-body cradles for hours. Then Londos and Lewis speeded-up the action with snapmares and airplanes-spins. Antonio Rocca brought in drop-kicks. Bronko Nagurski added body tackles and brawling. Gorgeous George was a showman and so is Vince McMahon. A promoter can only do what the fans allow. Ticket sales prove you, the fan, approve and so we defend the WWF.

MAGNUM T.A.

Is He Just Another Dusty Rhodes?

By Mike Bellew

In appearances, Magnum Terry Allen and Dusty Rhodes are miles apart. They have as much in common as New York and L.A. One man's body is a temple to conditioning, while the other's is an overstuffed warehouse. T.A.'s profile is sharp and handsome, Rhodes' chubby cheeks are anything but. Still, aside from the outside framework, both men are chums.

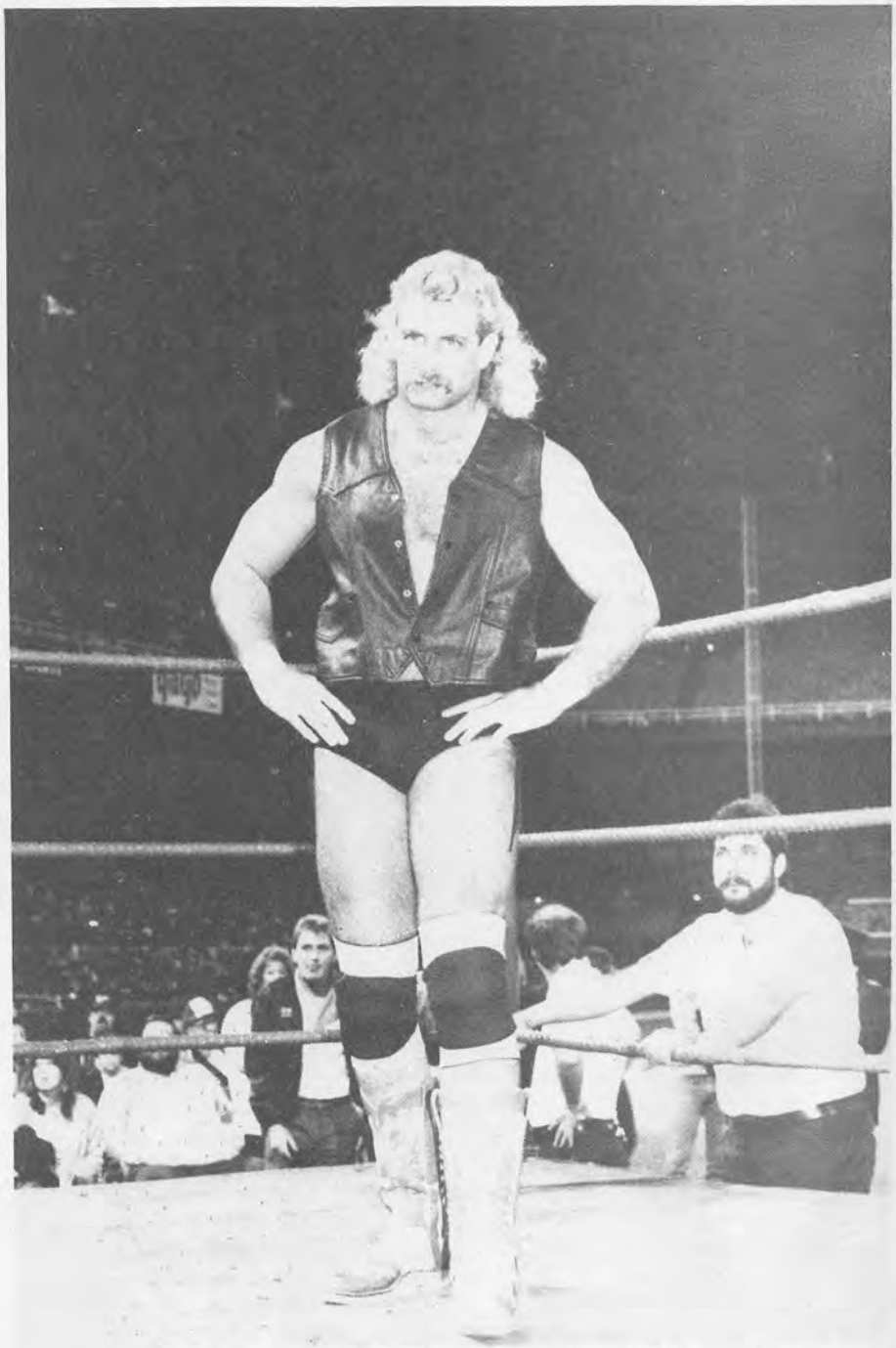
As good as they are, they ain't good enough. A few issues ago, WRESTLING EYE reported promoters were tired of giving Dusty Rhodes title shots. We said that no matter how many times Rhodes wrestles Flair, the results will always be predictable. And after a score of rematches, most folks agree—Dusty Rhodes will never win a clear victory over Ric Flair. He will never, not now or ever, be able to take Ric's precious '10 pounds of gold'.

Unfortunately, the same can be said for Terry Allen. Like Dusty, Magnum has had numerous occasions to prove himself against Flair. All across the country, last year, Flair and his new nemesis battled in a violent roadshow. Magnum had the champ holding on for dear life. He had done his homework for these matches. He knew how to counter the horrible Figure-4; how to duck those devastating judo chops; and above all, how to survive. Yet, if fans were looking for an evenly matched series such as Brisco-Funk, Sammartino-Morales, or Thesz-Rogers, they were indeed disappointed.

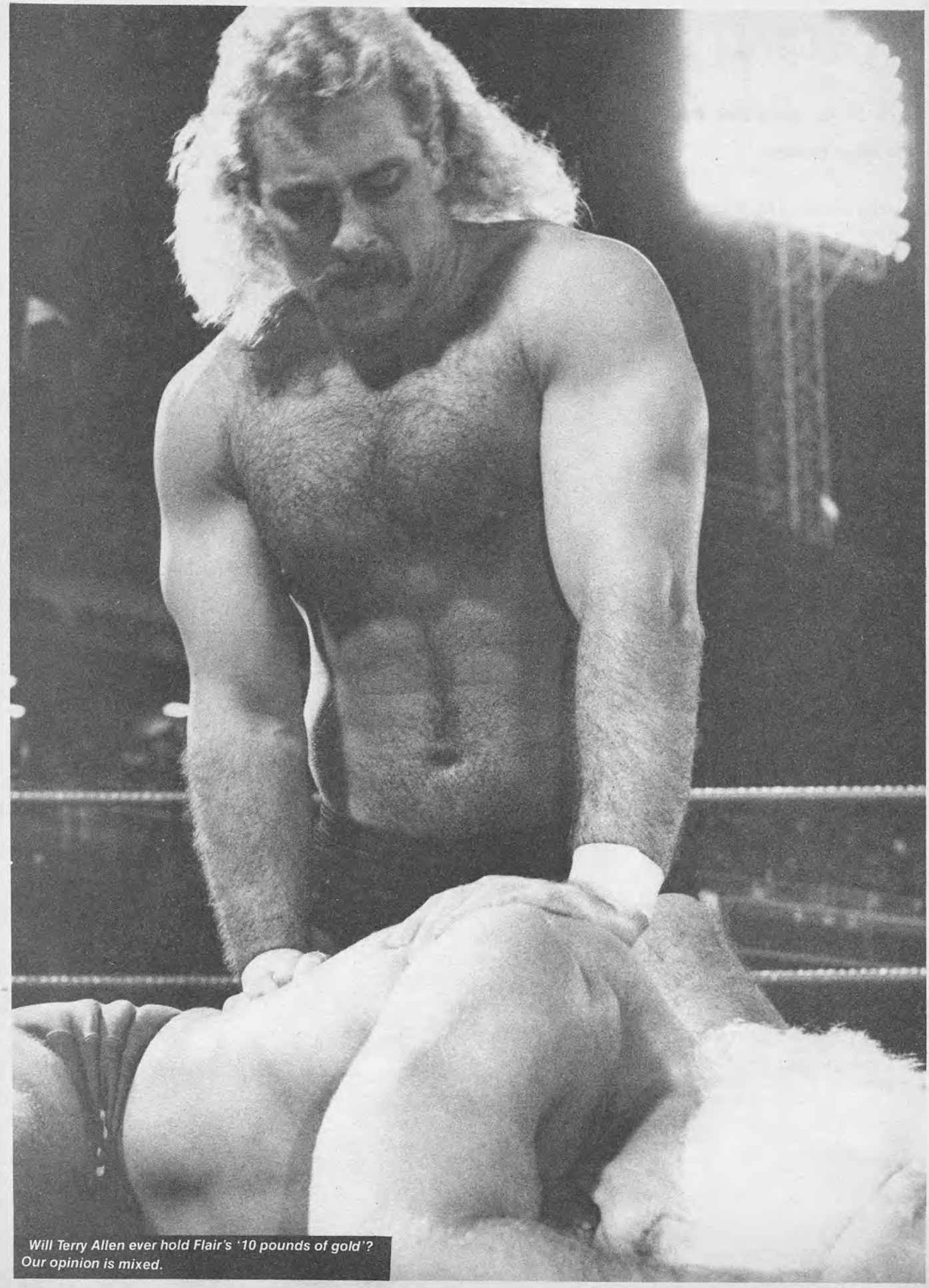
Throughout each melee, Flair's confidence was supreme. He had been this route many times before, and knew well the outcome. A few years ago, many thought Flair was ducking the 6'1"—235-pound wrestler from Norfolk, Virginia. Today, most fans would agree Terry Allen doesn't have the experience to be champ.

To win the world championship you must think clearly. You must put aside revenge or memories of past grudges. You can't go into the square-circle set on punishing the world champ. Rather, you look to catch him off guard. Trip him up and grab the momentum. Dusty Rhodes has never understood this. Every time the big Texan wrestled Ric Flair, he inevitably confused revenge with winning. When Dusty looks across the ring at Ric, he sees the enemy, not the champ.

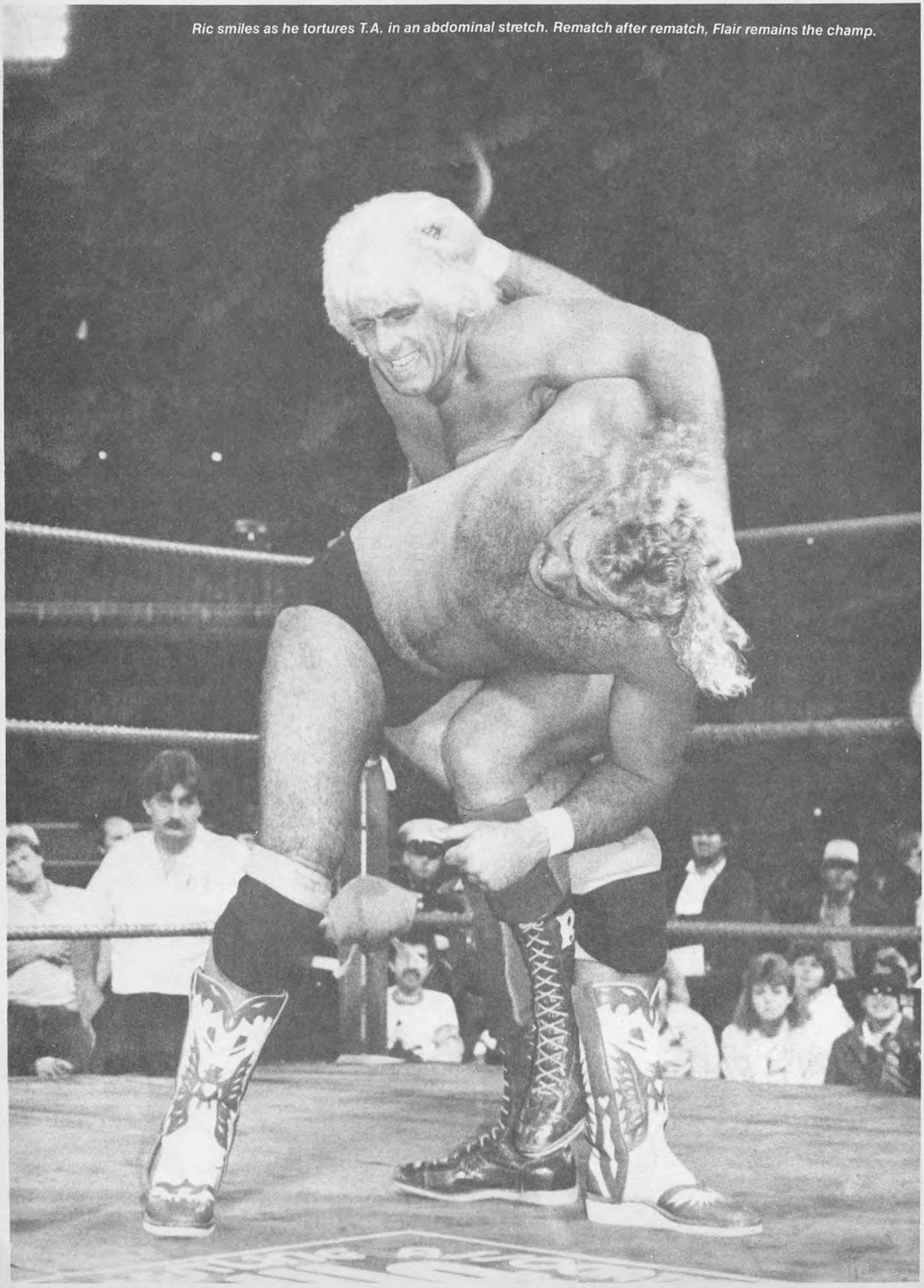
Magnum is also making this tragic mistake. Past feuds with the NWA world champ and his bounty hunters have blurred Terry's vision. He thinks in terms of getting even, of teaching Flair respect. Playing the avenging angel has major drawbacks.



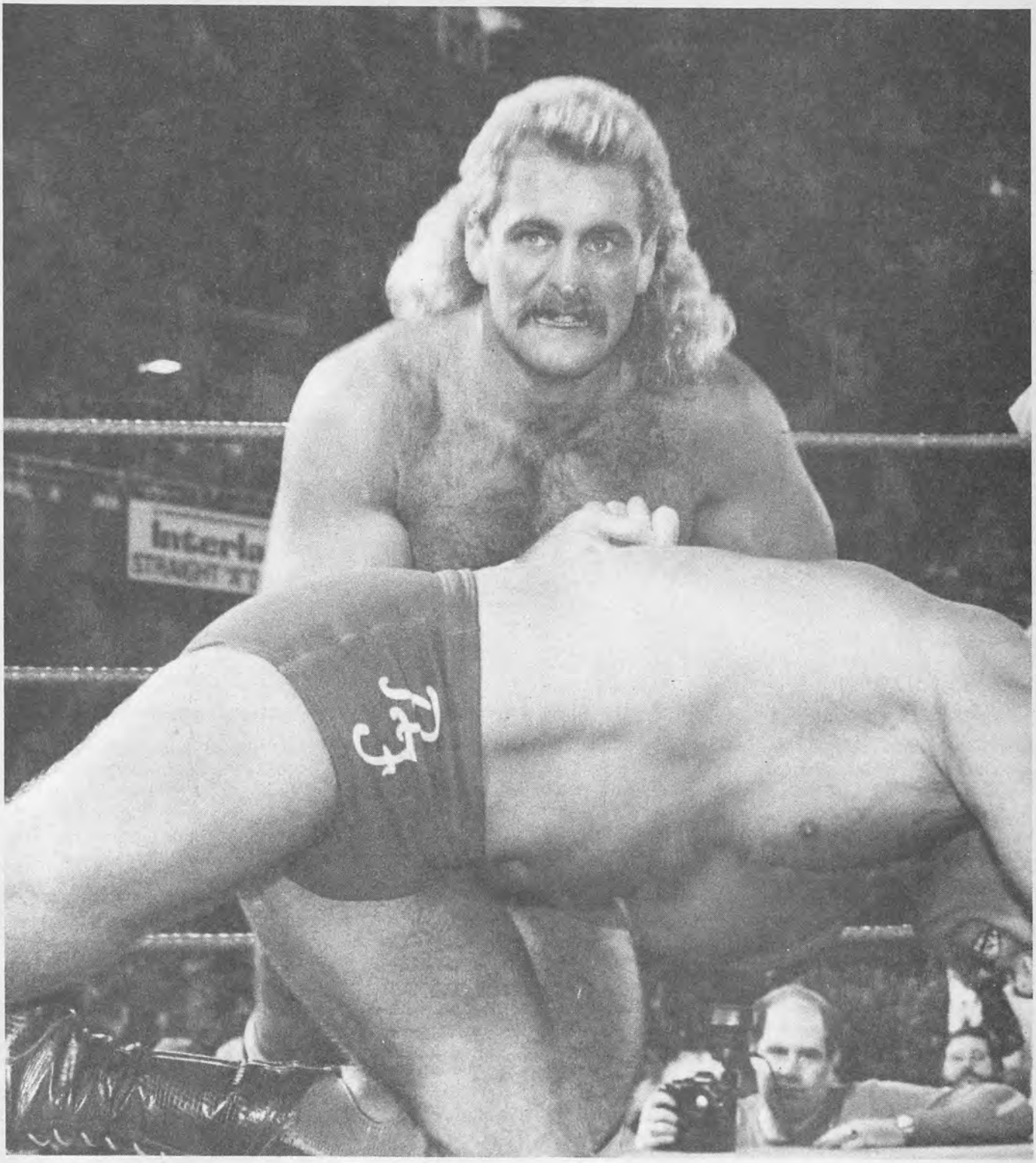
The leather-clad U.S. champ eyes another crack at the NWA world championship.



Will Terry Allen ever hold Flair's '10 pounds of gold'? Our opinion is mixed.



Ric smiles as he tortures T.A. in an abdominal stretch. Rematch after rematch, Flair remains the champ.



Past grudges and feuds have blurred Magnum's view. He's out to hurt Rick Flair, not win the belt.

However, this scenario can be altered. Magnum Terry Allen doesn't have to repeat the mistakes of his recent past. He's no old dog, and new tricks can be learned. Once he puts aside all the negative vibes that come from seeking revenge, he'll be a 100% better wrestler. Dusty's dilemma is much deeper. Too much water has gone under the bridge for Rhodes to think differently of his arch-rival. For Rhodes, a new champ would mean a clean slate. Perhaps the new champ might be Terry Allen?

A Rhodes-Allen match would be great. Magnum's superb conditioning would offset Rhodes' experience of twenty years. Like a sleek jaguar pitted against a monstrous grizzly bear, T.A. would be at his cunning best. Until either man beats Flair, it's just a bout between two leading contenders.

The one missing element in Magnum's make up is the killer instinct. He's just too mild-mannered, too polite for a champ who will use any trick in the book to remain champ. Flair is not above pulling on his opponents for extra leverage, or putting his feet on the second strand for balance. T.A. has never resorted to this. Such honesty puts Terry on the short end of a very big stick.

GEORGIA WRESTLING
The Inside Story

The King and Queen of Georgia Wrestling—Ric Flair and Ladies contender, Debbie Combs.

By Ed Garea

It is certainly no secret that wrestling has received a huge media explosion over the past two years. It is also certainly no secret that the main beneficiary of this explosion has been Vince McMahon and the WWF. But until recently, the best-kept secret in wrestling has been the promotions of the Crockett family. While McMahon had the most hyped media event with Wrestlemania, Crockett and his Starcade '85 was actually more successful than McMahon in terms of gate receipts, even though he used one-fourth the publicity that McMahon used. Yet, the media seem to ignore Crockett; he remains for most a purely southern phenomenon.

For many years, the Crockett promotions *were* a strictly southern phenomenon. Founded by the late Jim Crockett Sr. in 1935, the promotions centered mainly in North Carolina, later expanding to South Carolina and Virginia. It was a steady, quiet promotion, and one of the more successful in America; good attendance, strong local stars, and a sense of what the wrestling public wanted were the trademarks of the promotion. In the Sixties there was an attempt by Crockett to invade the WWF, with the frontpiece of the invasion being headed by Antonio Rocca. This effort came to naught, reasons being the failure to secure a large arena (having to settle for Sunnyside Gardens) and the relative unfamiliarity of the Crockett wrestlers. (This before the era of cable TV and the matches that never stop.) Accepting defeat, Crockett retreated to the safety of the Carolinas and continued to develop their talent. Among the stars in the Sixties were Rip Hawk and Swede Hanson, the Anderson brothers, Wahoo McDaniel, Klondyke Bill, Nelson Royal, and George and Sandy Scott. In the Seventies, such stars as Greg Valentine, Ricky Steamboat, Jay Youngblood, and, of course, Ric Flair developed in the area.

With the expansion of the WWF, the Crockett promotions (now under the leadership of Jim Crockett Jr.) decided to expand also. First, they bought Georgia Championship Wrestling from Ole Anderson, then won a spot on TBS from Ted Turner, who was looking for a southern-flavored wrestling show that would continue in the tradition of the Georgia show before the WWF bought it. With a national TV show in production, they were ready to fight back against the WWF. Using a combination of shows and agreements with local promoters, Crockett has struck back at the WWF, even to the point of invading the home turf of the WWF, the Northeast. How successful have they been so far? Results vary; attendance in Philadelphia is equal to that of the WWF, while attendance at the Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey is lower, but the WWF cards have been no great shakes in the realm of fan support either.

However, the best fight is yet to come. Recently, Crockett filed a multimillion dollar anti-trust suit against the WWF and various arenas, such as the Philadelphia Spectrum and the Nassau Coliseum over their practice of exclusive tenancy. How this suit will fare in court is anyone's guess; it will take years to be resolved. But it is a blow against a seemingly unstoppable empire; at least in the eyes of the media. It will be a classic fight: the goliath WWF against the

equally huge, but still unknown, Crockett Promotions; still the best-kept secret in wrestling, and sports as well.

Following is a survey of the stars who toil for Crockett:

RIC FLAIR: The current NWA champion and one of the best grapplers in the game today, or ever, for that matter. Well versed in all techniques, from strictly scientific to out-and-out brawling. Works better with a technician than a brawler, but pitted against the likes of Rhodes and Magnum gives him little chance to show his technique. Decision to turn him into a heel in his home area not a good one as far the fans are concerned; still retains his tremendous popularity. Will remain as champ for the forseeable future as there is no one on the horizon with his combination of ability and charisma.

MAGNUM TA: Began as prelim babyface in Florida. Changed image to Magnum during stay in Mid-South. Current U.S. title-holder, not one of the great technical wrestlers, but a hard worker.

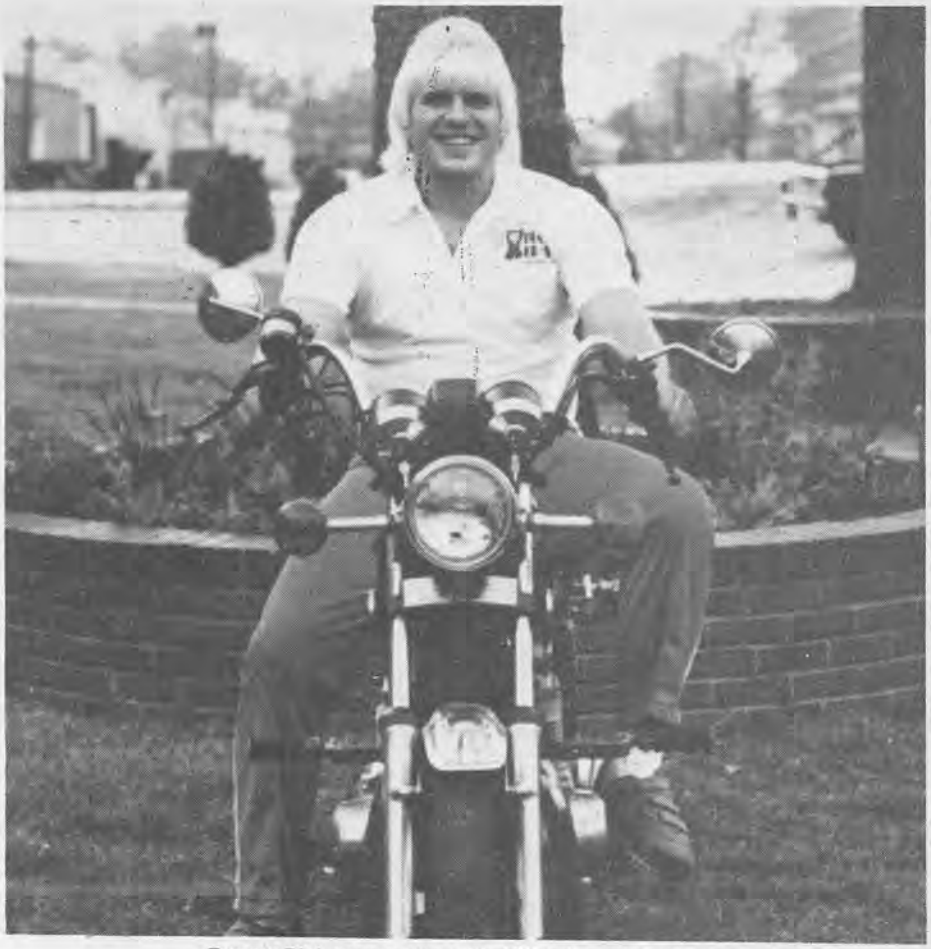
DUSTY RHODES: A legend in his own time; currently the booker for the Crockett promotions. He shows signs of decline. Wants one last fling as NWA champion desperately, but unable to obtain belt. Age will keep him from being champion.

NATURE BOY' BUDDY LANDELL: This Ric Flair type, will get the big push in '86. Won National belt from Terry Taylor during Starcade, though Terry gave Landell all he could handle.

ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS: Rick Morton and Robert Gibson. Two hard workers who have caught on tremendously with the fans, especially those of the female variety. Work well together, well enough to be NWA World Tag Champions. Bring excitement to even television matches.

OLE AND ARN ANDERSON: Ole a veteran of many years in the game. Arn a relative newcomer. Used as "cousins" to back Ric Flair in his feud with Dusty Rhodes. Current National Tag champs; good when wrestling against a team that equates them.

TULLY BLANCHARD: Good, solid grappler, but not charismatic. Proof positive of this is the need for a valet in the form of Baby Doll. Tully does possess talent; could anyone else have beat Magnum TA in those gruelling "I quit" matches?



Tommy Rich won and lost his NWA championship on Georgia television.

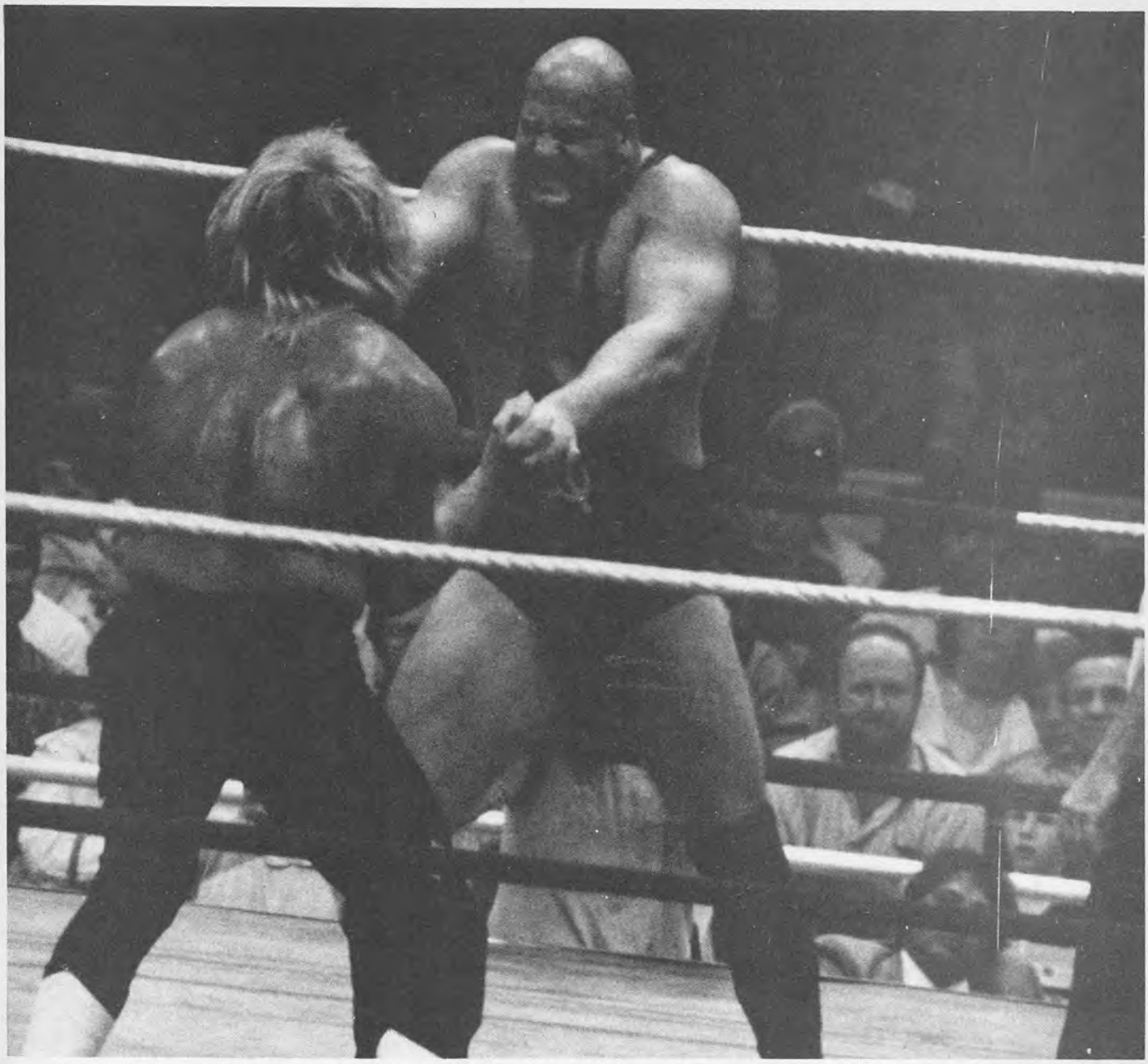
BABY DOLL: Wrestled during the Seventies as Tanya West; in real life the daughter of former wrestler Nick Roberts. Known now as Tully Blanchard's valet. By the time this article hits the stand, she could have left Tully for Nature Boy Buddy Landell. Her usefulness to the promotion is slightly underrated, even by the Crocketts themselves. During the summer of 1985, she was lost to Dusty Rhodes for a month as part of a "bet" between Rhodes and Blanchard. This led to a silly film clip describing her progress at least once a week until Tully regained her. She also interfered in Tully's match with Magnum which led to Tully capturing the belt from Magnum, if only until Starcade. She will definitely play a large part this year.

RONNIE GARVIN: This ring veteran is far better as a heel, and would draw twice the heat wrestling as one. Involved in perhaps the silliest event in Starcade when he dressed in drag as "Sweet Atlanta Lively" and teamed with Jimmy Valiant against the Midnight Express.

JIMMY "BOOGIE-WOOGIE MAN" VALIANT: He goes from one gimmick to another, from using a baseball bat known as his "old lady," to actually bringing in a valet to help (Real-life wife Felicia).

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS: Bobby Eaton, Dennis Condrey, with Manager Jim Cornette. Easily the most underrated tag team in the territory, as well as the world. And probably the best, as far as ability goes, as well. The problem is, however, that no one seems to take them seriously. Besides being decent wrestlers and good heels, they also boast the best manager in wrestling in Jim Cornette, a man you can truly love to hate. Perhaps by the time this article is published things will have changed and they will be in the big matches.

IVAN KOLOFF: Seems as though he's been around forever. Began in this territory in the mid-Sixties. Went to Canada and under the guidance of Tony Angelo, became Ivan Koloff, Russian Warrior supreme. The rest is history.



Kruschev vs. Keirn—in an effort to combat the WWF, Crockett has co-promoted with Gary Justice of Pro USA.

NIKITA KOLOFF: "Nephew" of Ivan. The best looking athlete in wrestling. His repertoire consists entirely of punching and kicking, followed by the "Russian Sickle" clothesline to end the match.

KRUSHER KRUSCHEV: Began as Crusher Darso in Georgia. Went to Mid-South under that monicker, but somehow metamorphorized into Krusher Krushev right in front of the fans. No matter, he'd be just as good as "John Smith". Definitely the best worker of the Russian trio, and the most talented as well. A legitimate 280 lbs., said to be working his way up to 320. Current holder of the Mid-Atlantic belt, won from Sam Houston in a runoff during Starcade. As he gains more experience, we here at the WRESTLING EYE look for big things from him.

SAN HOUSTON: The real-life brother of Jake "the Snake" Roberts, Sam Houston began his career in Florida, moving later to the Crockett area. Much potential, needs a big push. But not to worry, with experience and the right build-up, he will be one of the coming superstars in the game.

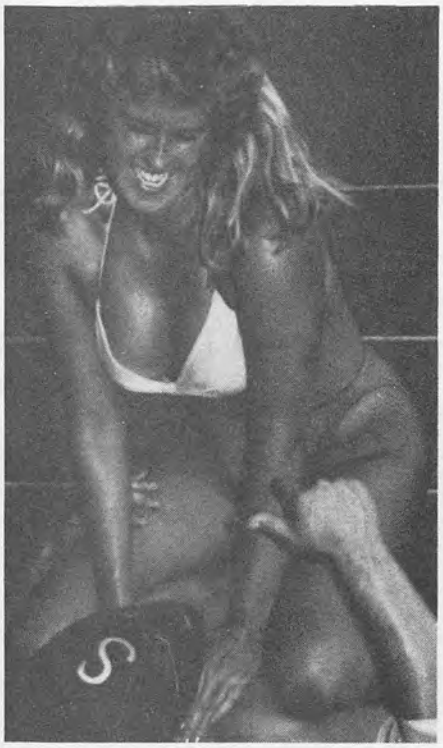
THE BARBARIAN: He *is* awesome to behold, and this is what puts him over with the fans. But, in this area, what good is size when there already exists the likes of Nikita Koloff, Kruschev, and the Road Warriors?

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM: A real ring veteran; Once held WWF title, as everyone knows and as a heel and switched to babyface. Very charismatic; a true living legend.

Before we went to press with this article, we have seen that Buddy Landell, who was to have been pushed, instead left the area, and wonder of wonders, Baby Doll switched allegiance as expected, but to Dusty Rhodes, who won the National title from Landell in New Mexico. Expect also new faces, in the form of Ted Di Biase and Steve Williams, the Batten Brothers, Crusher Blackwell, and the return of King Kong Bundy. 1986 may also see Ric Flair drop the title for awhile, perhaps to Nikita Koloff; at any rate, expect Nikita to hold some sort of singles title before the year is out.

Videos & Photos
Real Matches in Pro Ring

LADY WRESTLING!



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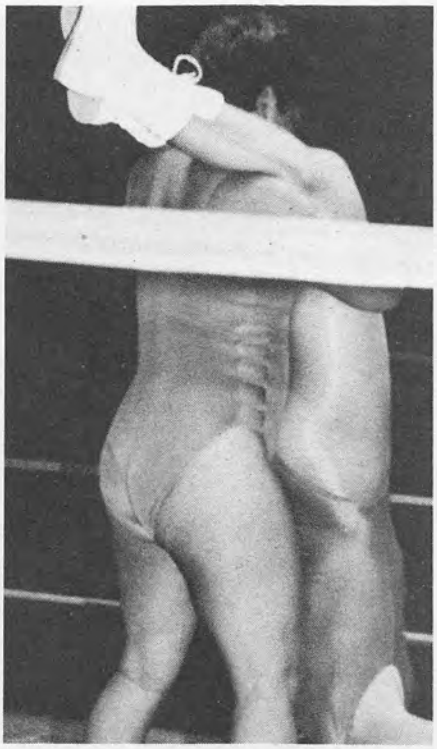

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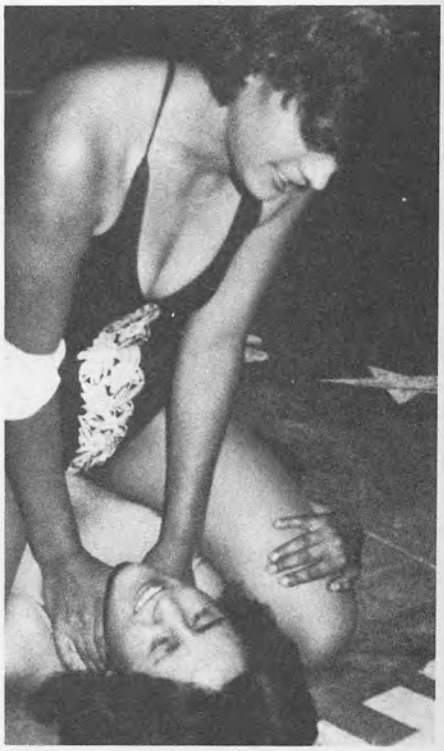

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BUDDY ADAMS
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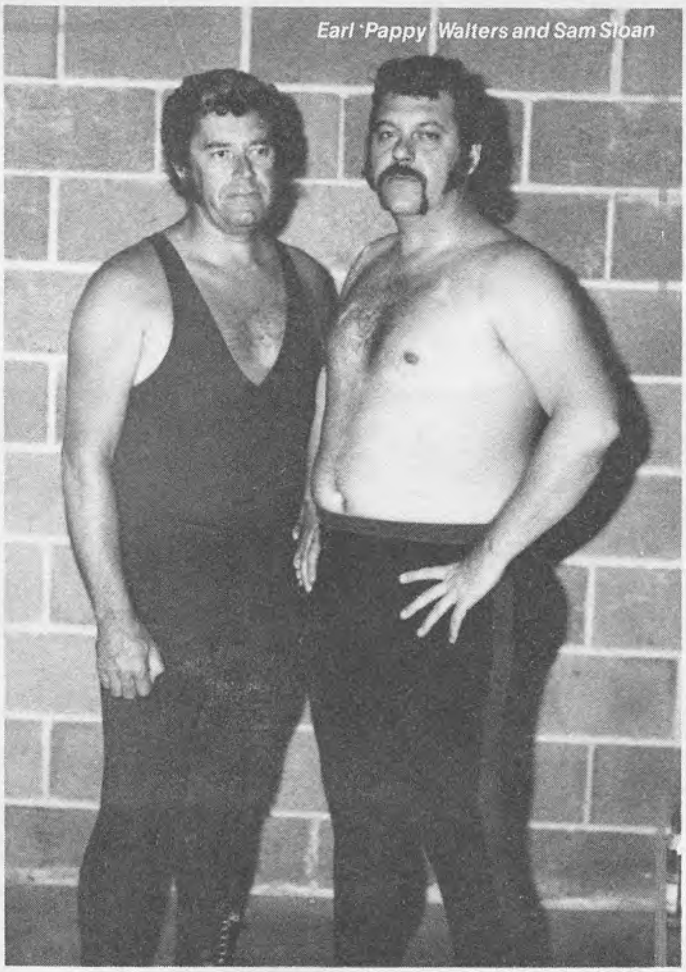
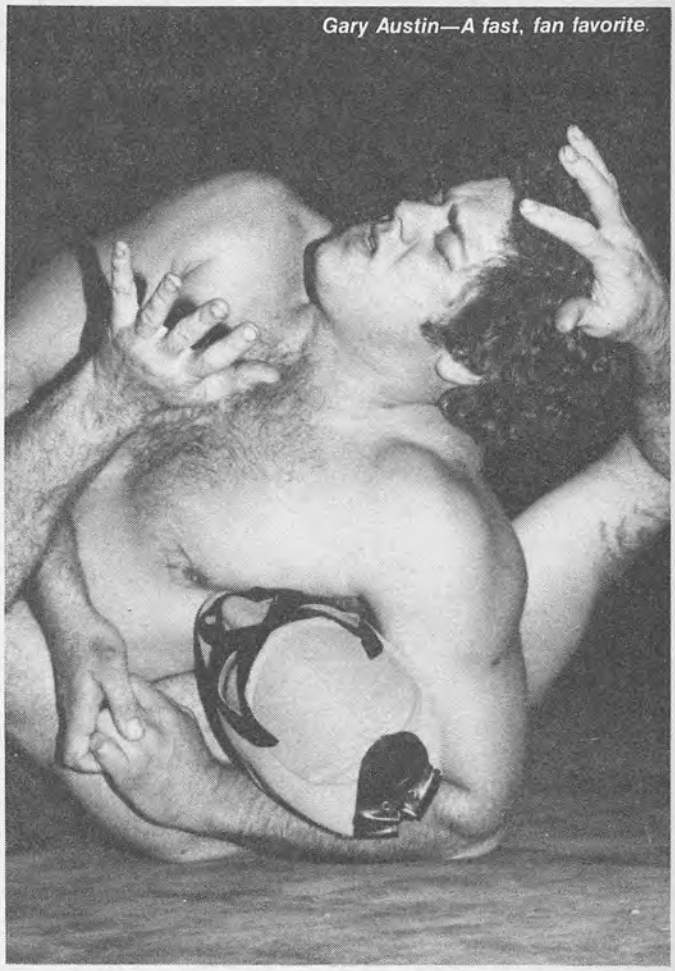
Buddy Adams—Holds the Virginia heavyweight belt in the UWA. Buddy has wrestled for the IWA, AAWA, ICW and NWA. He turned pro in 1976. He holds wins over Ronnie Garvin, Bob Orton Jr., Ron Wright, Tony Peters, Bob Roop and 'Pistol' Pete Whattley, among other top contenders. A proud, scientific wrestler, Adams had held the championship for three years.

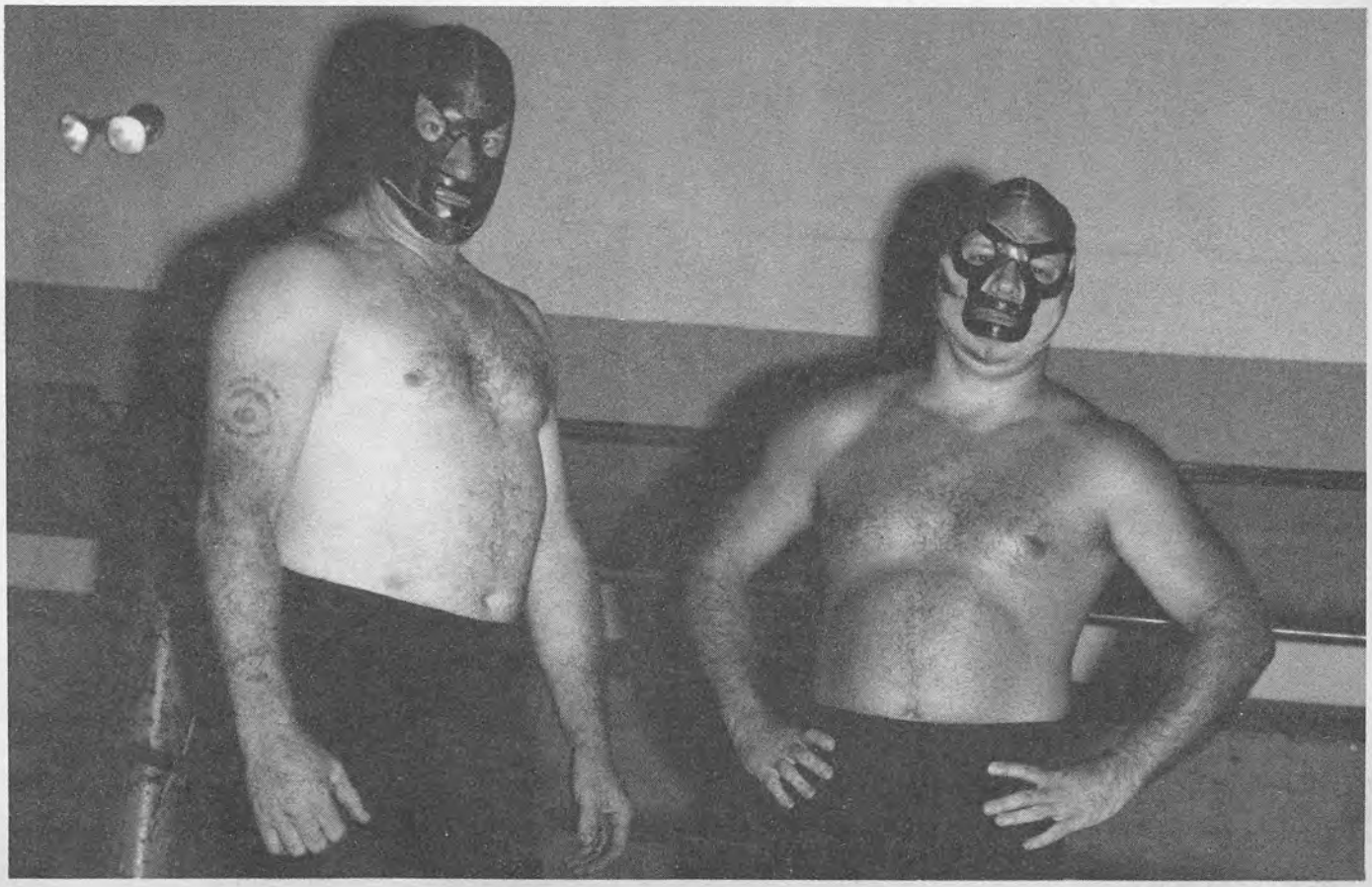


Earl 'Pappy' Walters and Sam Sloan



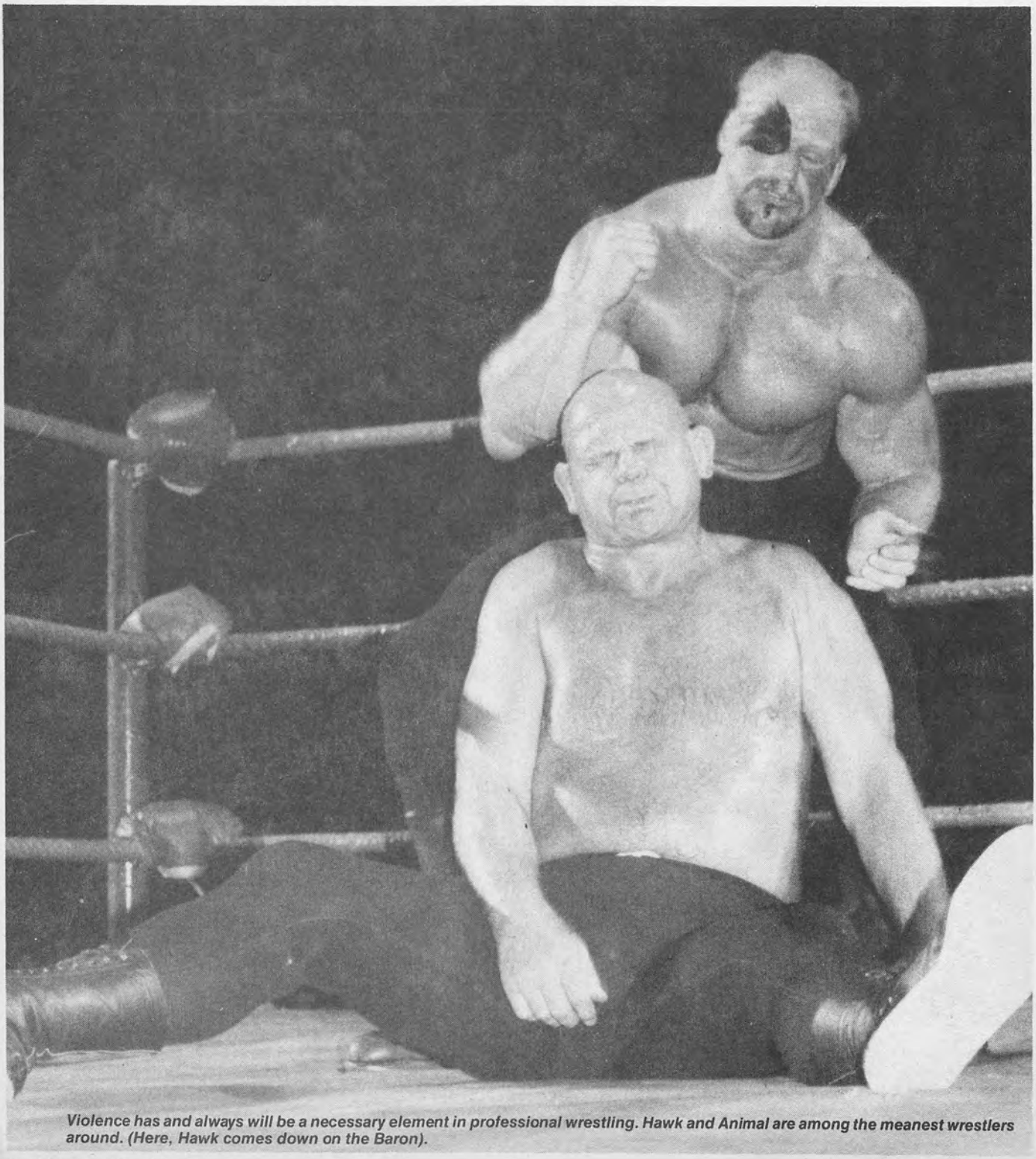
Gary Austin—A fast, fan favorite.

The Spoilers (One & Two)—The masked men have wrestled as a a tag team since 1979. They're the current tag team champions for the UWA. Spoiler One (L) has been wrestling for three years and has held the heavyweight championship for a number of years.



BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS IN THE SQUARED CIRCLE

Photos & Text by Tony Kush



Violence has and always will be a necessary element in professional wrestling. Hawk and Animal are among the meanest wrestlers around. (Here, Hawk comes down on the Baron).

Upon arrival at the sports auditorium, the giant-like figure dons the uniform of his chosen profession. His name is called and he exits the dressing room, stopping briefly to check the laces on his boots. As he walks into the arena, his conservative walk is quickly transformed into an aggressive strut.

He enters the arena to the boos and jeers of the crowd. The hostility of the audience has little effect on this towering figure as he pauses to sneer and glare at a fan near ringside. After entering the ring, he stands in his corner scowling at his opponent who is standing at the opposite end of the ring signing autographs for fans.

The bell rings and the behemoth attacks his opponent with the speed of a cobra, employing a series of illegal maneuvers which render his opponent helpless. A long battle ensues as the action spills outside the ring and onto the cement floor. A loud crack echoes throughout the arena as a steel chair makes contact with a human skull, causing the smaller grappler to slip into unconsciousness.

The victor leaves the ring smirking and swaggers back to the dressing room, bombarded by empty beer cups, the heckling of the crowd ringing in his ears. He enters the dressing room, protected now from the enraged fans. A professional wrestler has completed another night's work. The wrestler is but one of hundreds who tour the United States and abroad, making their living in just such a manner. Top stars wrestle as many as six days per week, and sometimes twice in one day, in a sport that has made a remarkable comeback due to cable television and the efforts of promoters Verne Gagne and Vince McMahon.

Professional wrestling, which has been in existence longer than television itself, has, in the last three years, become the number one spectator sport in America. Wrestling shows are held every night of the week all over the world, and the super-arenas, such as Madison Square Garden, the Checkerdome and Chicago's Rosemont Horizon, house capacity crowds monthly. Approximately 10 million fans, nearly half ranging in age from 18 to 34 years, will pay to see wrestling exhibitions in 1986,

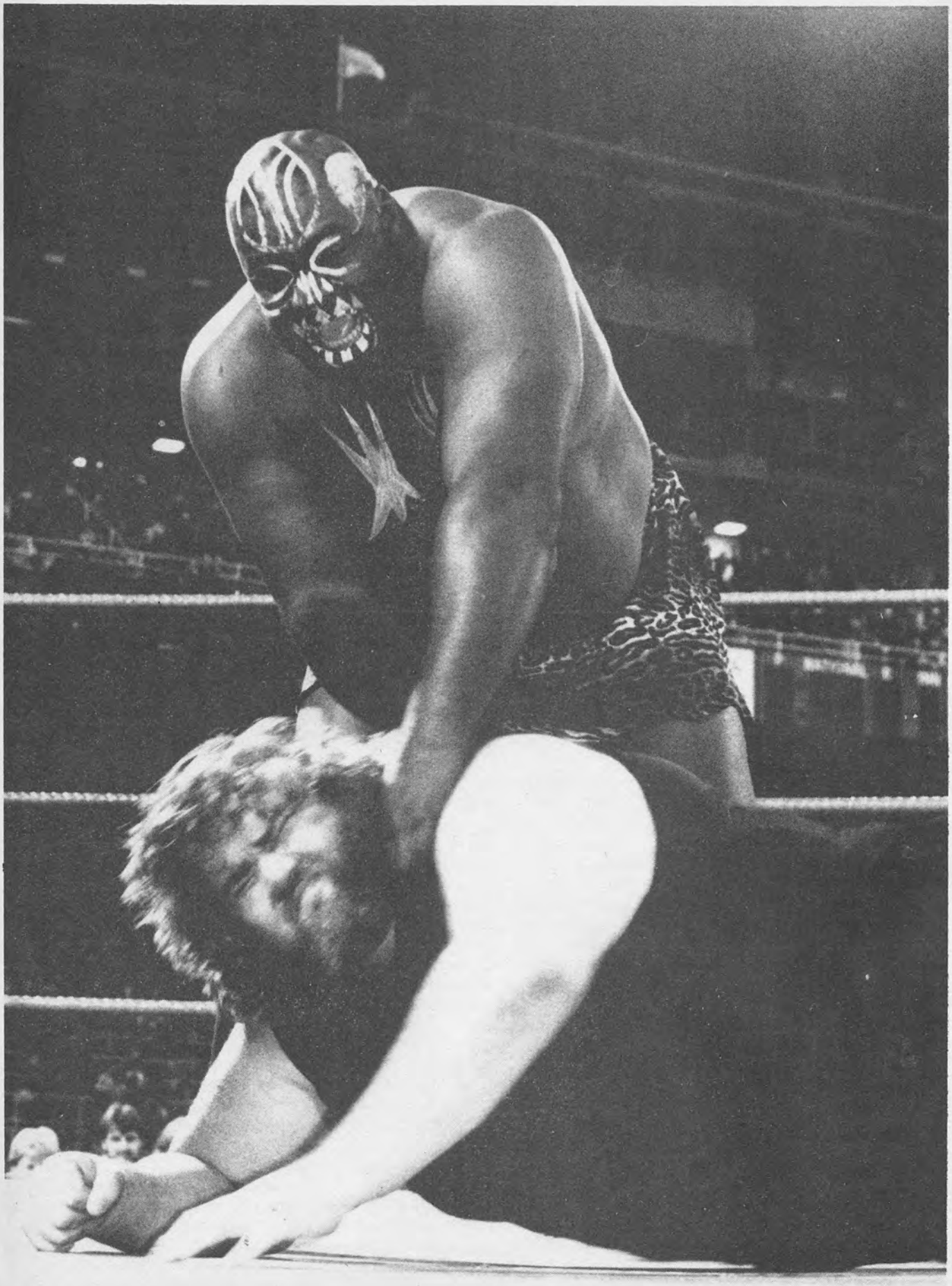
Top stars—like Baron Von Rashke—wrestle as many as six days per week, and sometimes twice in one day.

according to industry estimates. A survey in *Advertising Age* last year found that 14 per cent of those who watched wrestling attended college, 11 per cent were professionals, and 13 per cent earned more than $40,000 per annum. Two out of five fans are women.

As the above statistics indicate, wrestling attracts a larger and more diversified audience than its stereotyped crowd of screaming grannies and paper bag drunks. With endorsements from such celebrities as Cyndi Lauper, Kenny Loggins, Sly Stallone, Meatloaf and George Thorogood, it is now viewed more seriously as a powerful force in entertainment. No longer is the classic viewer a middle-aged man in a stained T-shirt drinking beer and laughing at fuzzy images on a UHF station on Sunday afternoons. Instead, wrestling has become a "night out" for the family, a setting for a first date, and for many people, as regular an activity as washing the car on Saturday or cutting the grass.

The mat game has become a rapidly growing seed in our culture. But why? Why has this show, which once garnered the atmosphere of a carnival, become a multi-million dollar industry? Recent articles on the wrestling explosion have credited its success to a number of specific factors. Inclusive is the fact that there are more than 16 wrestling programs on cable television every week, and that pro-wrestling has no season and runs all year around. It has also been said that wrestling is a grass roots sport, one that attracts millions of fans from all walks of life and from all age groups.

Undoubtedly it is because of all of the points stated above and many more, but especially one more. Much of pro-wrestling's popularity is a result of the violence which takes place on televised bouts and in live matches at arenas. The misconceptions that



A match between behemoths Jerry Blackwell and Kimala can dispel any misconceptions about pro wrestling.

violent acts in pro-wrestling are no more than blood capsules and break-away chairs can be dispelled by attending a card. The blood is real and the injuries can end careers.

Granted, the matches often seem predictable, especially those shown on television which match poorly trained rookies against experienced contenders. But it is the excessive violence which occurs in most main events that draws the fans to the arenas. Where else but in pro-wrestling can you see a man crack a steel chair over an opponent's head or back? Or see chain, cage, chicken-wire, handcuff and strap matches? And only in pro-wrestling can you witness men throwing fire at one another, and view competitors' faces and bodies drenched in blood. And that's *real* blood!

It is the violence mentioned above, and depicted in the accompanying photographs, that helps sell out 17,000-43,000 seat arenas and can transform a crowd bored with armlocks and headlocks into a near riot mob chanting "we want blood". Most wrestling fans don't feel they have received their money's worth unless a chair has been wielded or blood has been spilled. It is important to note that these fans are not a clique or members of any particular race or class. The fan clad is "grubbies" and sneakers who throws beer into the ring after what he considers an unfair decision, is usually sprayed with beer thrown by a man behind him, with a corresponding opinion, wearing a three-piece suit. The only difference between the two fans is that the former probably can't spell half the words he is heckling.

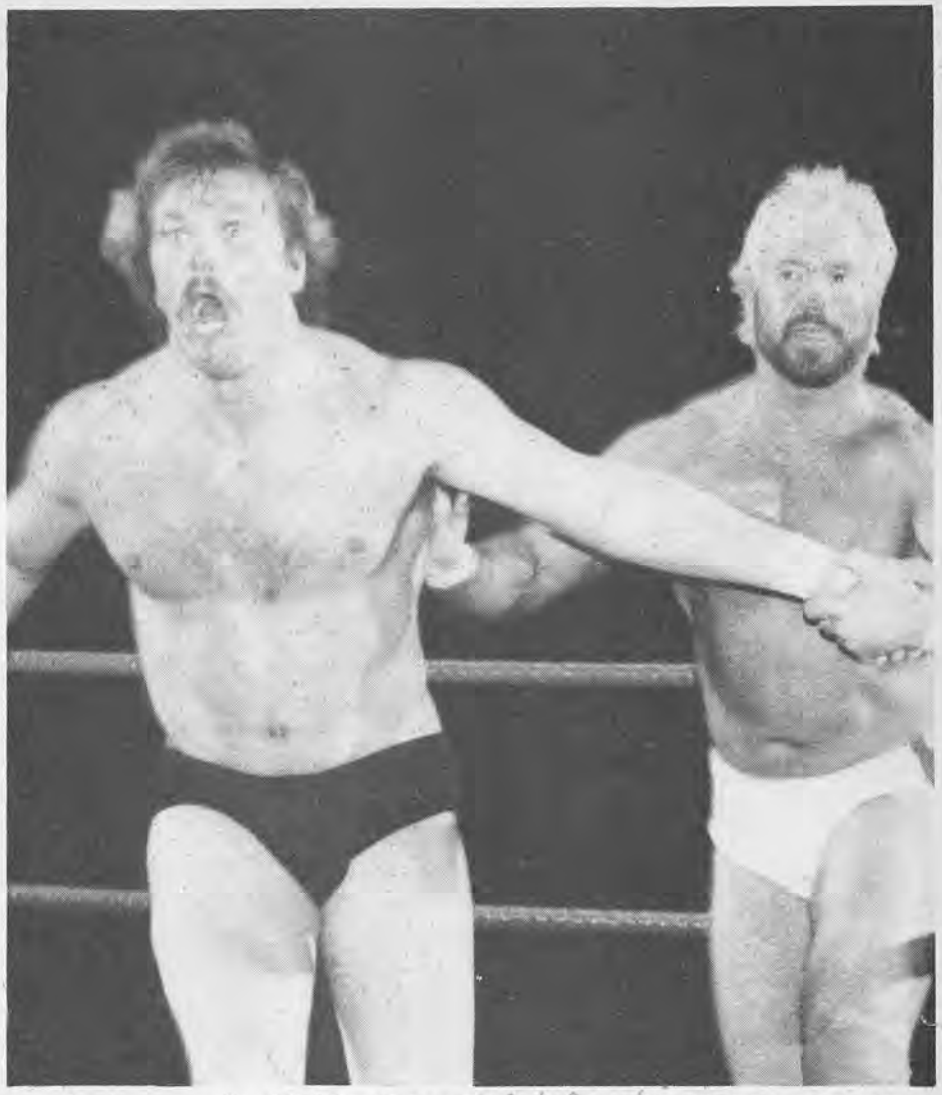
The price wrestlers pay for creating and partaking in this violence is high. Unlike participants in other full-contact sports such as hockey and football, professional wrestlers engage in their activity without benefit of padding. A forehead laden with scar tissue, cauliflower ears, and aches and pains from previous broken bones, torn ligaments and knee surgery are constant reminders of their grueling profession and hard-earned pay.

Moreover, the violence and chaos of pro-wrestling is not limited to the confines of the ring. Unruly fans frequently get so caught up in the action that they end up hurting the wrestlers, other fans and themselves. Wrestlers have been doused with beer, hit with chairs and bottles, and have been stabbed and shot at during matches. Wrestlers John and Jerry Valiant were almost severely injured a few years ago in New York City when a group of angry fans attempted to overturn their taxicab as they departed Madison Square Garden.

When they're not attacking wrestlers, the fans often fight amongst themselves. A difference in opinion of a wrestling star has, on more than one occasion, turned into a brawl that attracted more attention than the melee in the ring. Chicago's International Amphitheatre, an arena which housed over 600 wrestling shows from 1949 to 1985, was famous for just such an atmosphere of pandemonium. The beer bought during bouts was for throwing, and the free-for-alls which erupted in the ring ended up in the balconies and parking lots.

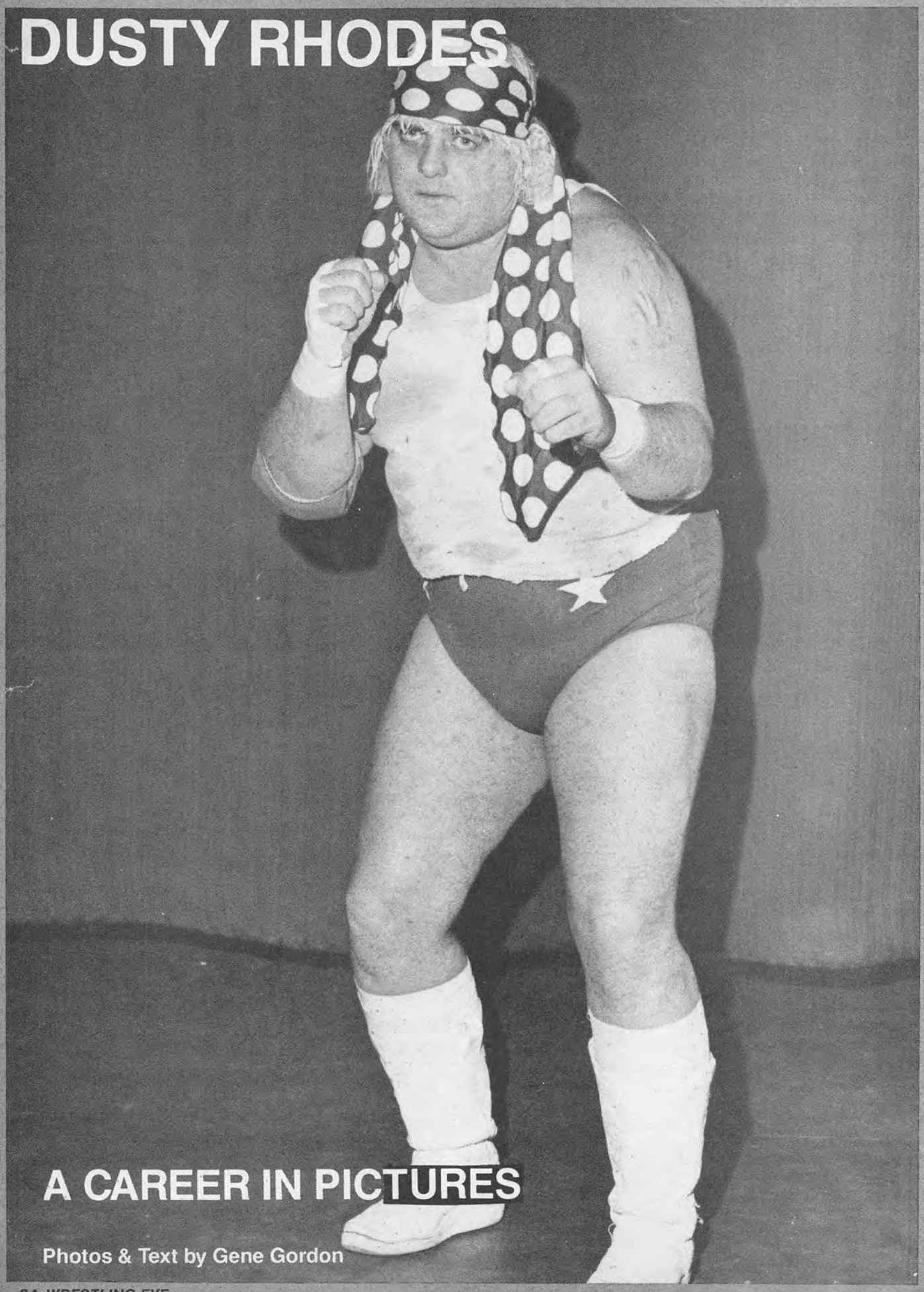
Pro-wrestling's formula of "athletic competition" and violence has created a concern among several lawmakers who seek to govern these exhibitions, Georgia State Rep. Dick Lane headed a committee which recently held hearings on pro-wrestling.

Having studied pro-wrestling for 10 years, and worked as a wrestling photographer for five, I know that despite the efforts of America's lawmakers, pro wrestling will endure. The bad guys and the good guys will continue to battle, the fans who believe will come to worship their heroes, and the ones who don't believe will still enjoy the show and wonder if it's on the up-and-up and never really know. In any case, violence has and always will be a necessary element in professional wrestling. It is as much a part of the mat game as the shouts and jeers of the crowd.



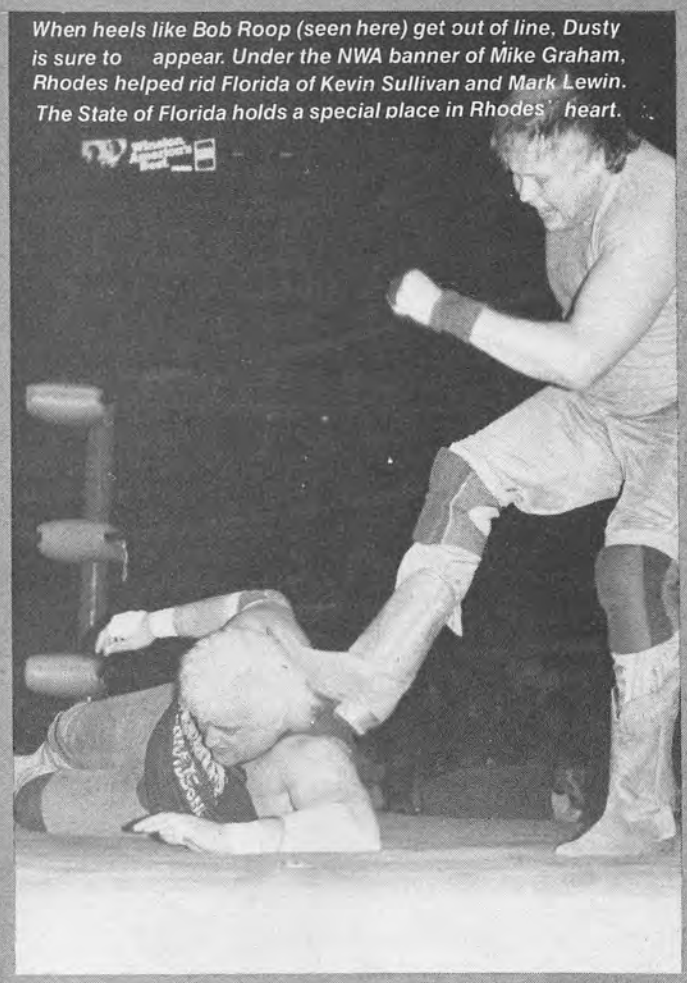
Buck Zum Hofe and Steve Regal wrestle with the speed of cobras.

DUSTY RHODES

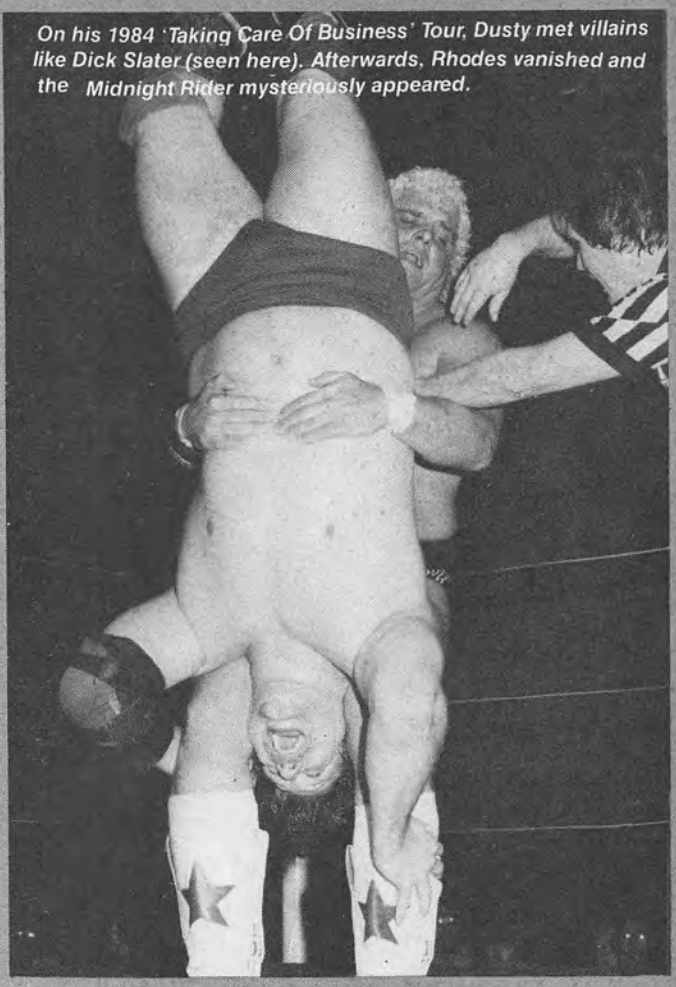


A CAREER IN PICTURES

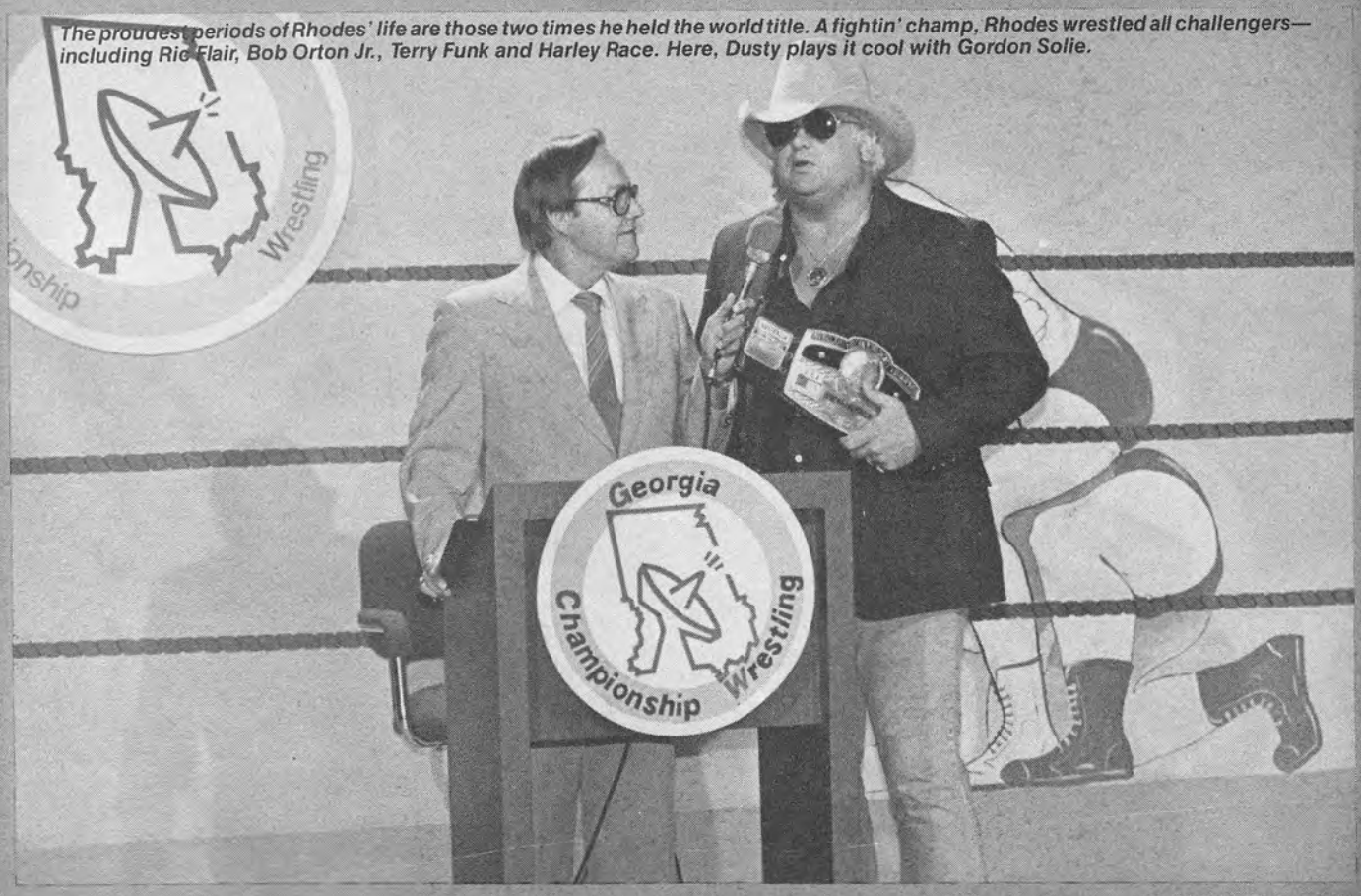
Photos & Text by Gene Gordon



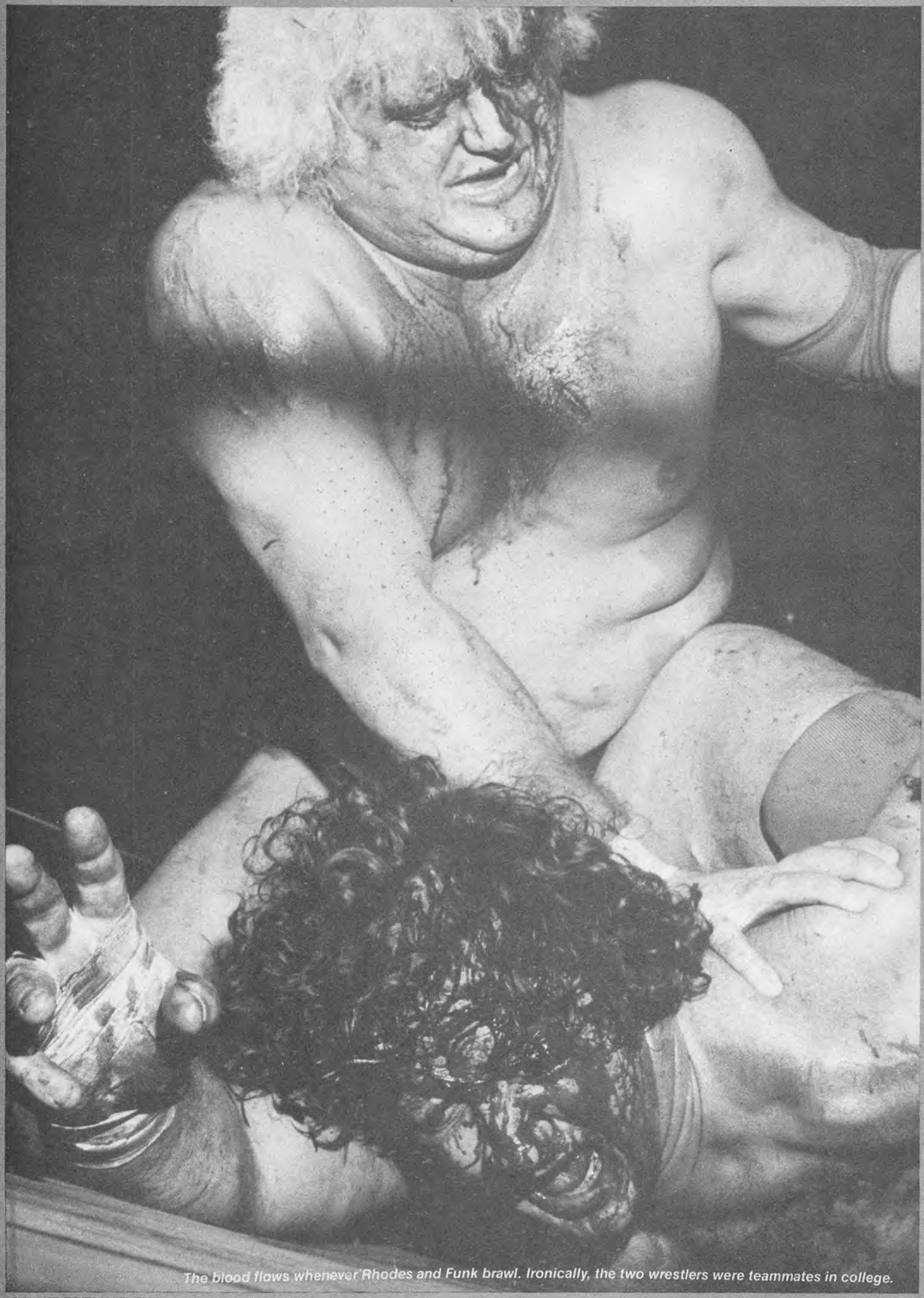
When heels like Bob Roop (seen here) get out of line, Dusty is sure to appear. Under the NWA banner of Mike Graham, Rhodes helped rid Florida of Kevin Sullivan and Mark Lewin. The State of Florida holds a special place in Rhodes' heart.



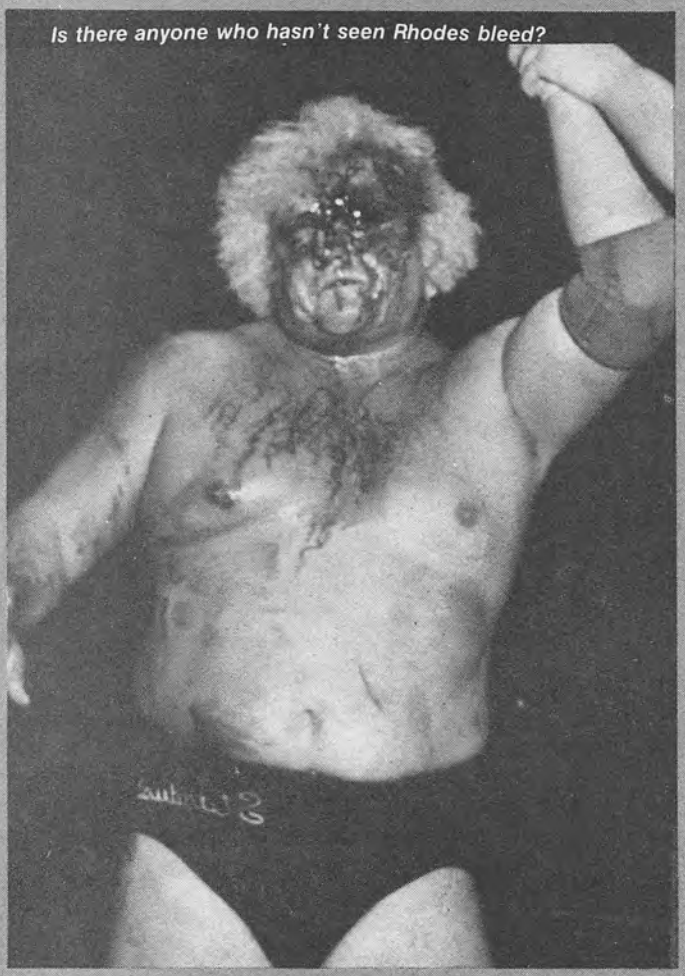
On his 1984 'Taking Care Of Business' Tour, Dusty met villains like Dick Slater (seen here). Afterwards, Rhodes vanished and the Midnight Rider mysteriously appeared.



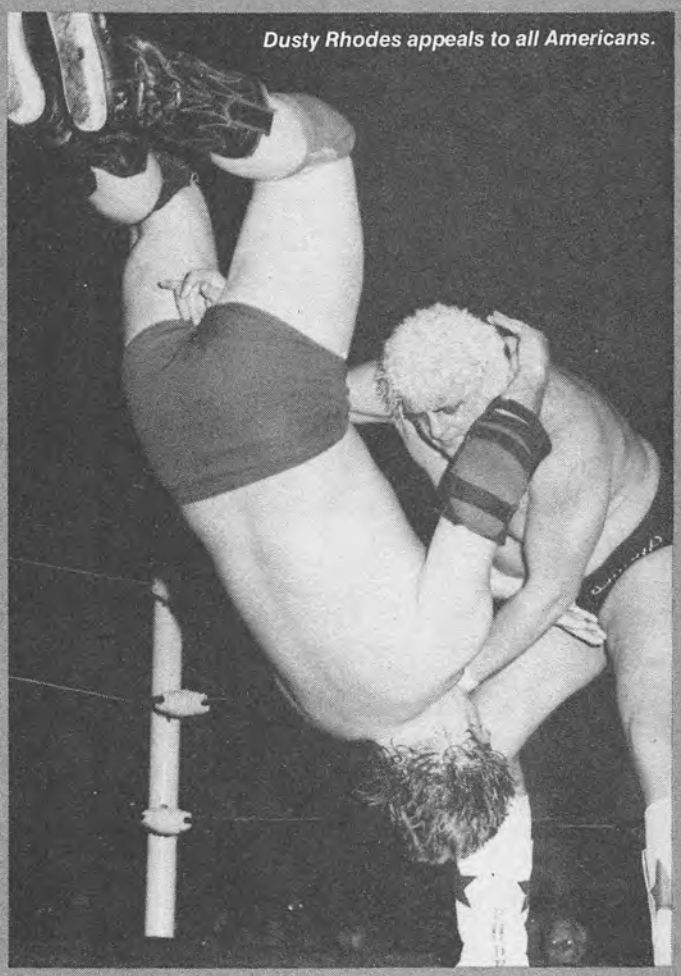
The proudest periods of Rhodes' life are those two times he held the world title. A fightin' champ, Rhodes wrestled all challengers—including Ric Flair, Bob Orton Jr., Terry Funk and Harley Race. Here, Dusty plays it cool with Gordon Solie.



The blood flows whenever Rhodes and Funk brawl. Ironically, the two wrestlers were teammates in college.



Is there anyone who hasn't seen Rhodes bleed?



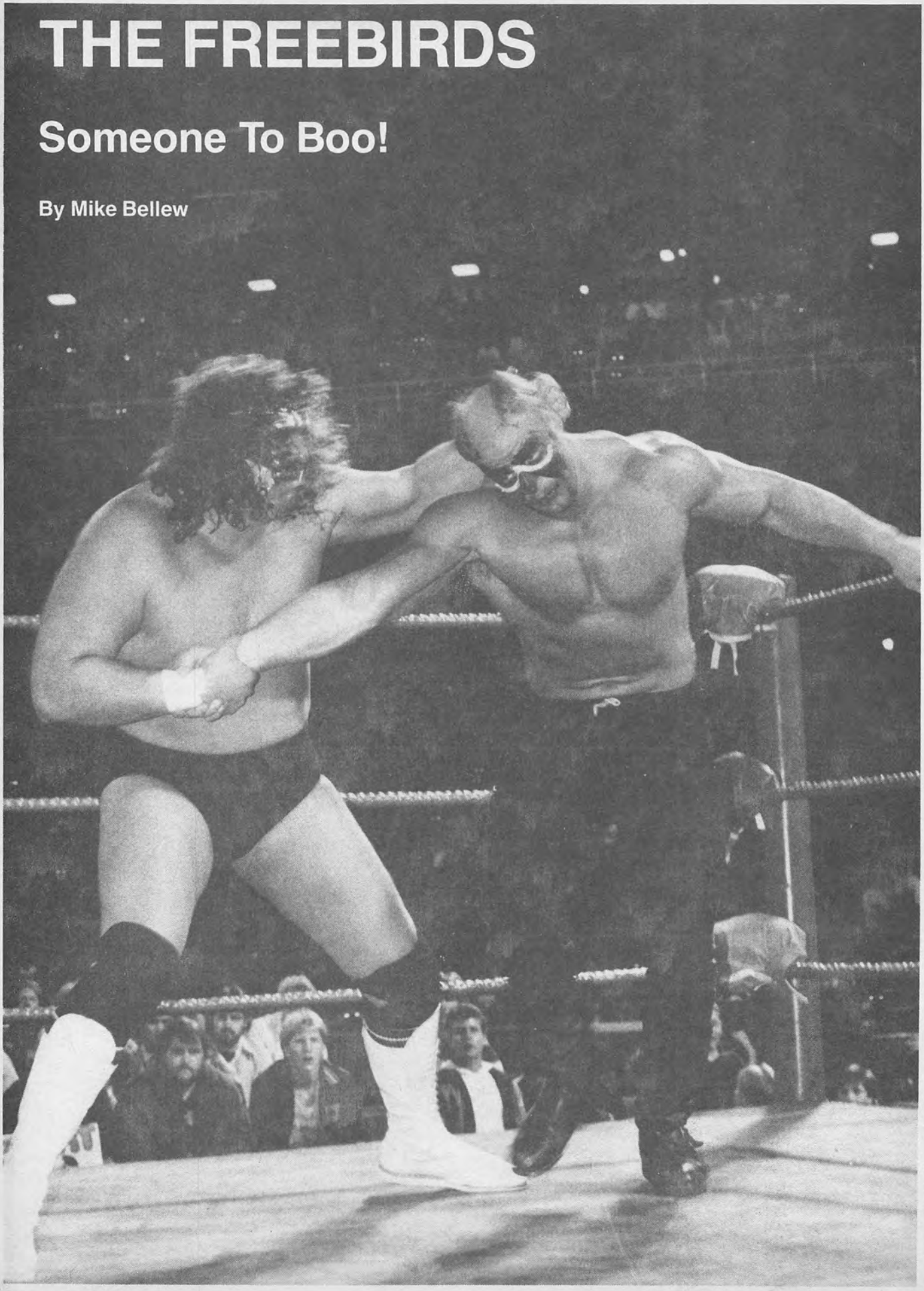
Dusty Rhodes appeals to all Americans.

Rhodes hates no wrestler as much as he does Terry Funk. The fellow Texan's interference robbed Dusty of the NWA world championship. Funk broke Rhodes' arm while Dusty was wrestling Harley Race, allowing Race to regain the belt.

THE FREEBIRDS

Someone To Boo!

By Mike Bellew



The Freebirds relaxing before a match. Terry Gordy is on the left, Michael Hayes in the middle, and Buddy Roberts.

Lumped together, Terry, Michael and Buddy are 800 pounds of hostile southern hospitality. A threesome who rate right up there with Moe, Larry, and Curly; Jack, Janet and Christie; or Huey, Duey and Louie. If you want to boo someone, boo the Freebirds. Not only are they rude and obnoxious, but ringwise, they've got it all.

Tags are quick and precise. In normal two-men tag team bouts, the third Freebird is the perfect outside distraction. Double-teaming is their forte. Against the Road Warriors, the Freebirds were magnificent. Some folks will tell you how Animal pressed Terry Gordy overhead, or how the Hawk mopped the decks with Hayes' blonde locks. But, who won? The Freebirds, that's who. Kerry and Kevin Von Erich have had fits trying to pin down these fun-loving good ole' boys. Sgt. Slaughter and Greg 'Rambo' Gagne are so far the Freebirds' league, it isn't funny. The Koloffs have the power, teamwork and experience to test Michael, Buddy and Terry. However, if the Rock 'N' Roll Express could beat Ivan and the boys, imagine what a complex form of life might do?

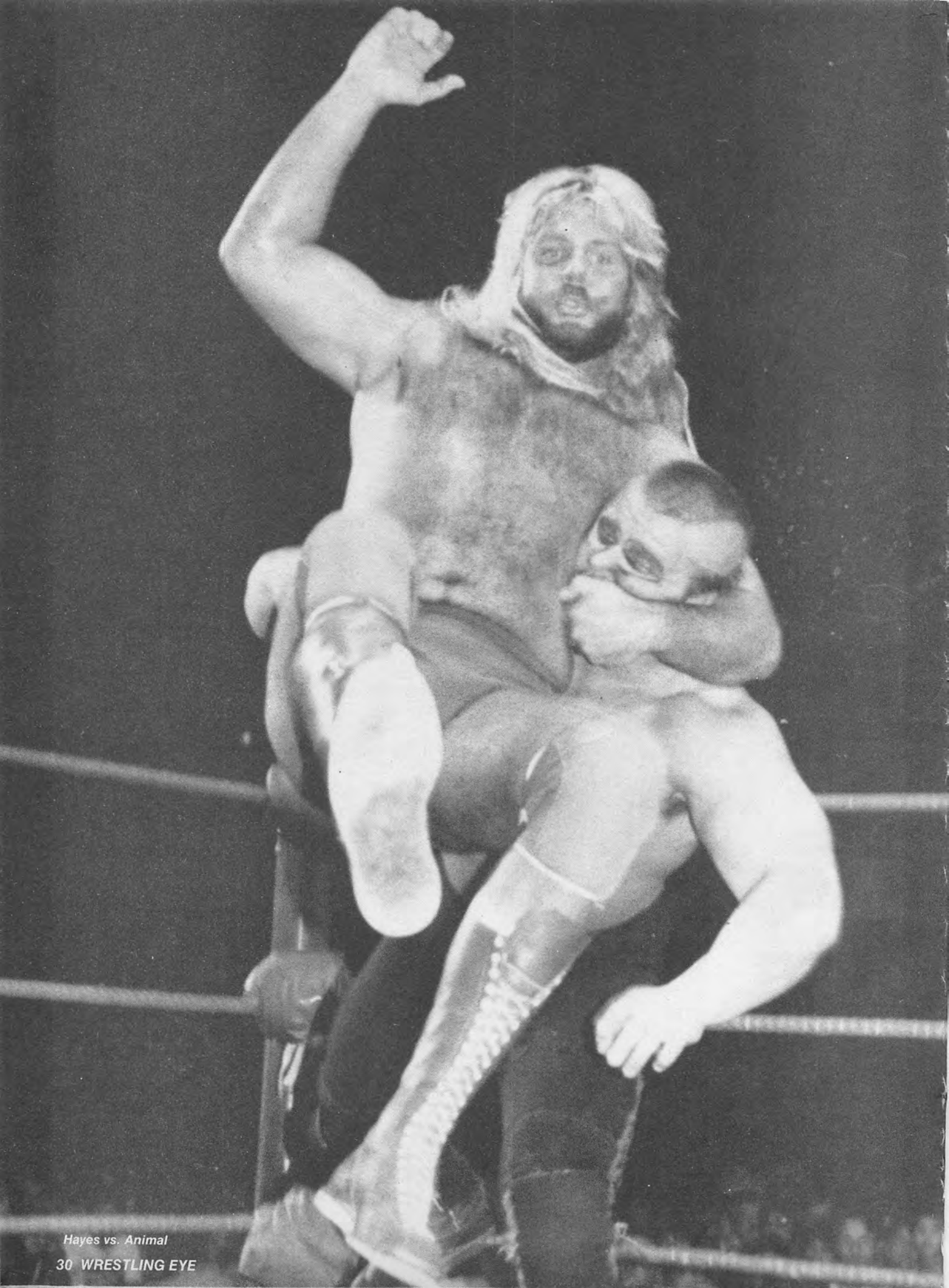
The only way to beat the Freebirds is to 'divide and conquer'. Eliminate any one member and you've put a critical dent in their overall armor. Oust Terry Gordy and there goes the Muscle, the Power, the Arm. Wipe out Michael Hayes—the Star, the Charmer, the Mastermind—and Gordy and Roberts are just another tag team. Buddy Roberts, he's the Pro, Mr. Experience, the Ringer, without him the other two are rookies. Apart, the Fabulous Freebirds aren't stiffs, but they aren't super-stars either.

A while ago it looked as if the Freebirds might break up. It seems Michael Hayes had been lured into individual action with the WWF. Unconfirmed reports have it that Hayes had been offered a recording contract if he signed with the WWF. David Wolfe, Cyndi Lauper's boyfriend and record producer, was possibly interested in managing Hayes and the Bad Street Band. The Band had minor success in the NWA, but Wolfe's guidance meant a shot at EPIC Records. Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts agreed to go East with their teammate.

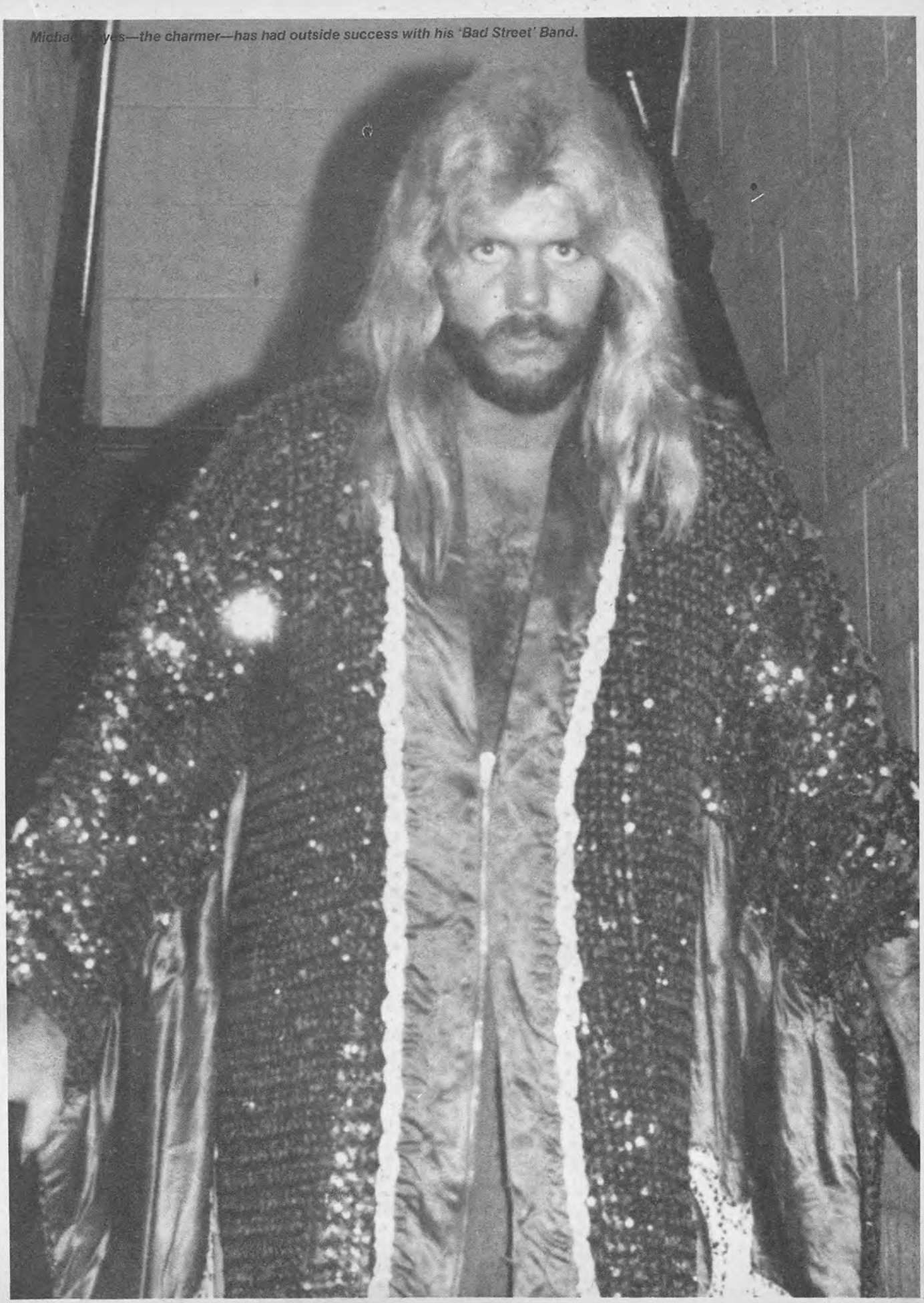
Roberts and Gordy hated the World Wide Wrestling Federation; their stay was short. After being 'under-used'—their words-Terry and Buddy split up, Gordy going to Japan and Roberts to Georgia. Haye's musical career never got enough push, and he eventually returned to the NWA-AWA territories. In Texas, the Freebirds reunited against Kerry, Kevin and Mike.

We live in an age of prima donnas. Rock stars Madonna, Prince and Springstein get their way because of their popularity. Prove the public will swallow your act and then set a price. No one in demand performs cheaply, and the Freebirds are no exception. Terry, Michael and Buddy are talented, and they know it. The key to their popularity, other than being clever rule-breakers, is the scarcity of their act. Like any superstars, the Freebirds know too many appearances will make them commonplace and less-in-demand.

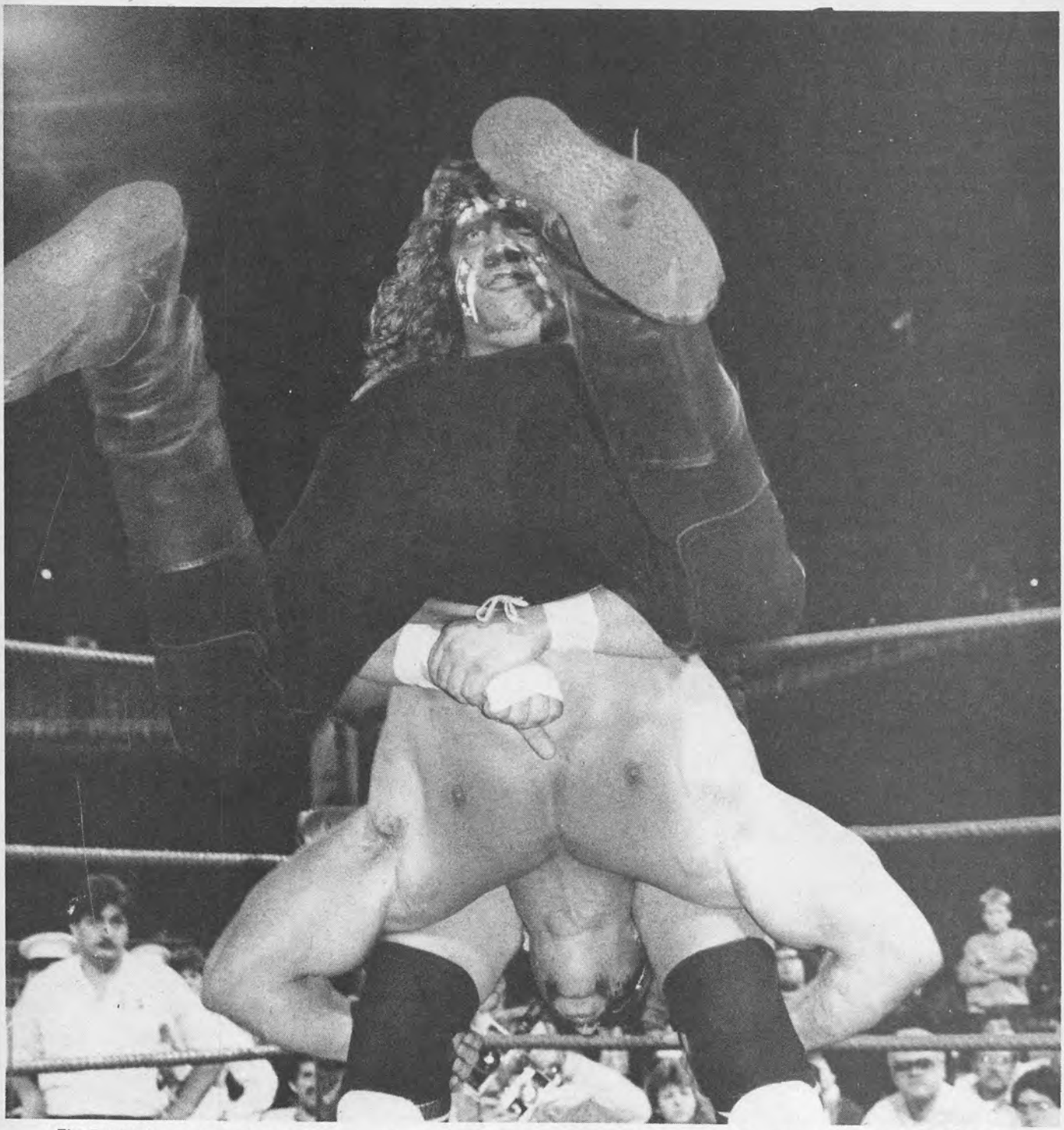
The Freebirds will never bother with world tag team titles because of this. Titles mean mandatory defenses and that equals routine. Staying unpredictable keeps the Freebirds fresh. Opponents know this team will bluff and baffle them,



Hayes vs. Animal



Michael Hayes—the charmer—has had outside success with his 'Bad Street' Band.



The Freebirds are one of the few tag teams who can go one-on-one with the Road Warriors. Here, Terry prepares to piledrive Hawk.

but what they don't know is how they'll accomplish it. Terry will outmuscle the enemy, Buddy will outwrestle them and Michael will fake them out.

The future for the Freebirds is uncertain, as they are. Their feud with the Road Warriors drove Hawk and Animal out of the Pro-USA circuit, leaving them without competition. Terry Gordy's time is limited due to commitments in Japan. Gordy was also injured and out-of-action after 'Crusher' Blackwell slammed him on a concrete slab. Hayes has always been independent, and would like more cracks at Flair and Martel. Buddy Roberts has always been the anchor of the team. He's the foundation which keeps Gordy and Hayes from splitting up. A veteran of many teams, Buddy knows what to say and when to say it. Petty arguments and questions of tactics are usually left to him. If the Freebirds were to separate, Buddy would be the most hurt.

Both NWA team titles and AWA tag belts are held by rather weak teams. The Rock 'N' Roll Express and Regal-Garvin would be easy-pickings for the Freebirds. Still, if they win those two-men belts—what happens to the third man? Would they still be great without Hayes? Without Gordy would they be as strong? What would happen without Roberts' years of experience? All this remain to be seen.

For now, the Fabulous Freebirds will continue to soar.

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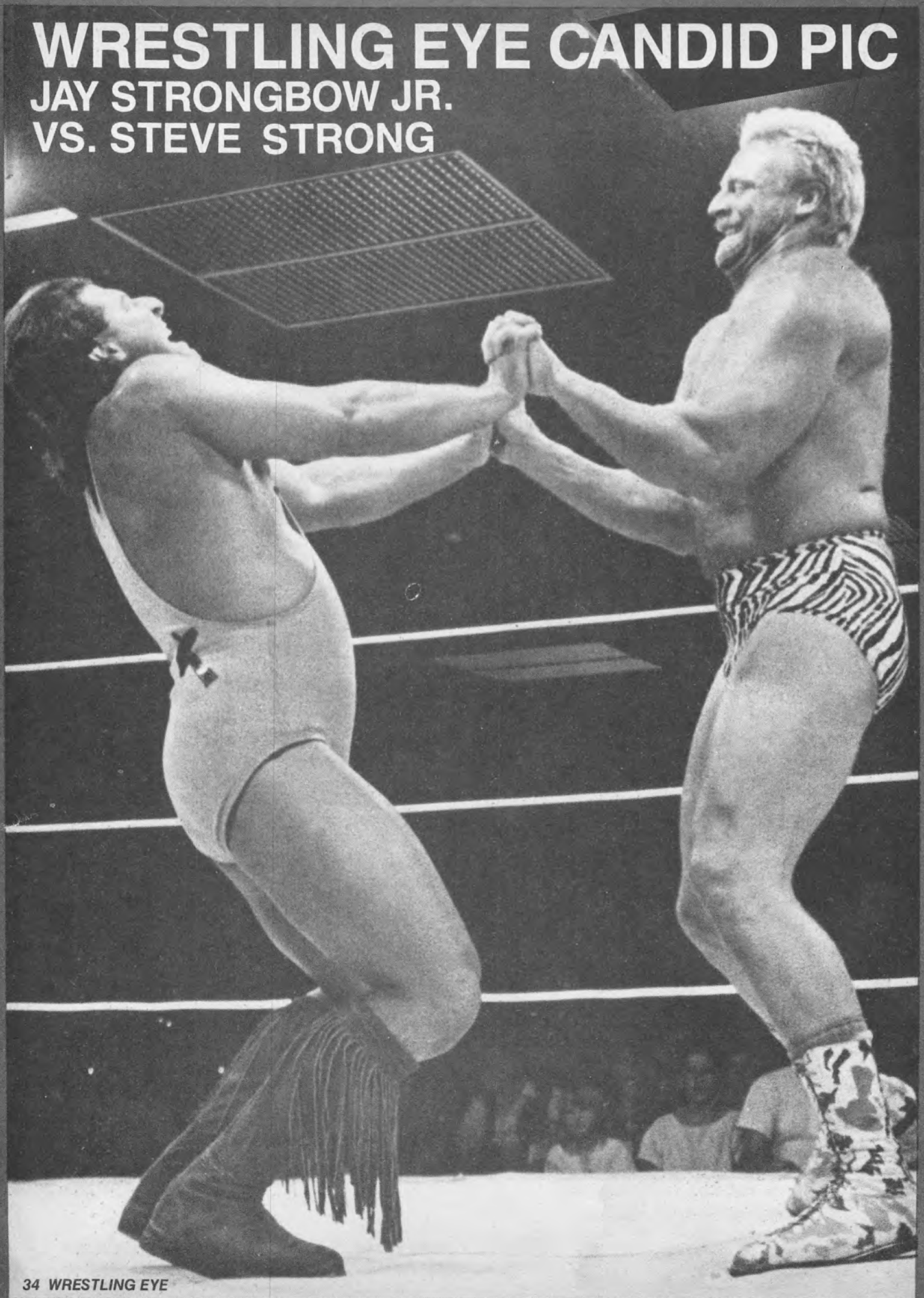

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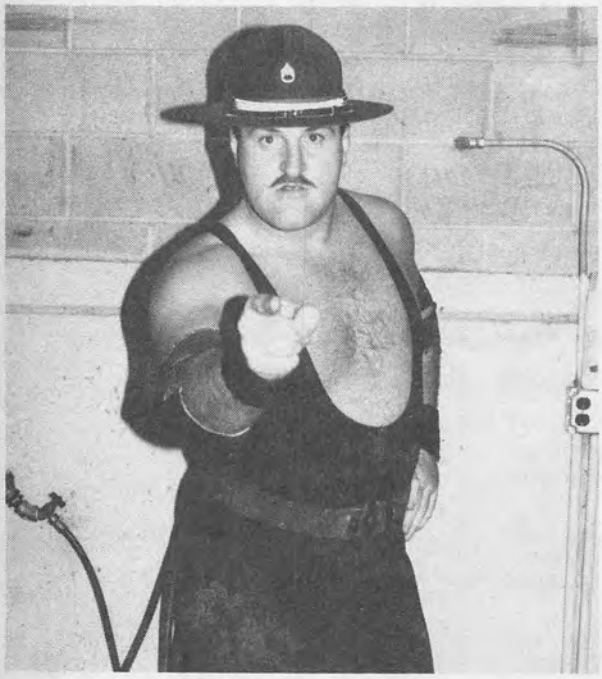

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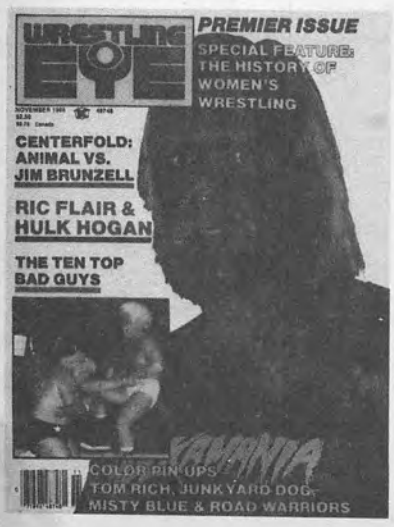

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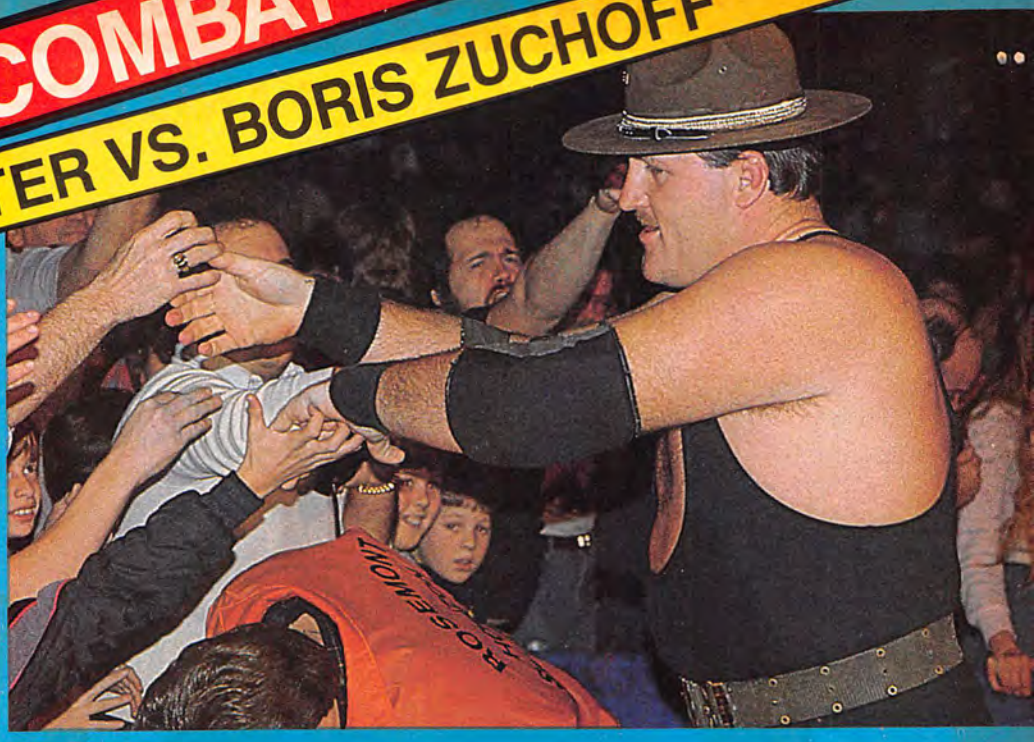
WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

BUZZ AND BRETT SAWYER

Photo by Dyane Kirkland

CHICAGO COMBAT

SGT. SLAUGHTER VS. BORIS ZUCHOFF



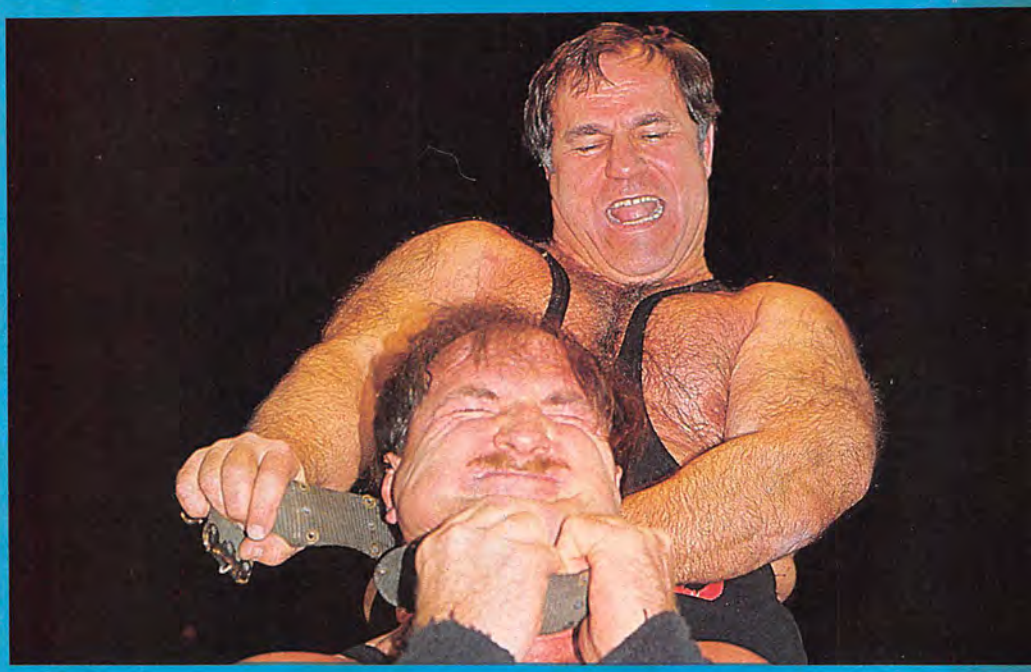
Photos by Tony Kush

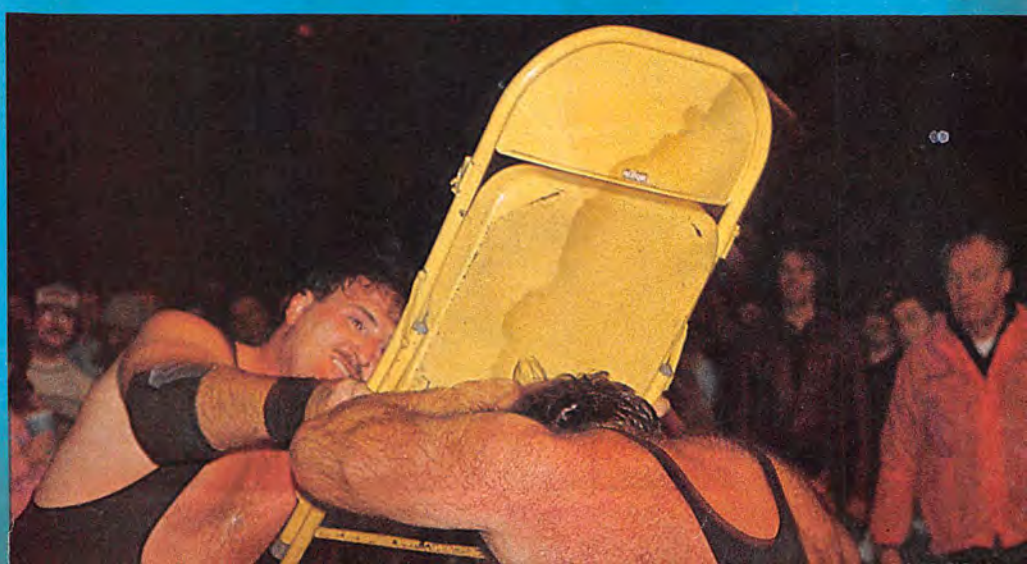
Reagan and Gorbachev may have chatted in Geneva, but the real debate took place in Chicago. Sgt. Slaughter took the U.S.—Soviet rivalry one better when he faced Boris Zuchoff, the Russian Heel.

Sgt. Slaughter is a rare breed. Not only does he put 'God and Country' above all else, but the Sarge was the first wrestler to defect from the WWF ranks. An established star, he was second only to Hogan in popularity. Alas, Sarge was unhappy and packed his bags for the AWA. Single handediy, Slaughter won the 1985-AWA $100,000 tag team battle royal (his partner, Jerry 'Crusher' Blackwell had been injured earlier). Against overwhelming odds, he succeeded—beating Billy Robinson and Kimala in the final minutes. Following this, he won the Americas title (from Larry Zbyzsko) on June 21, 1985.

This time, Boris Zuchoff faced him in chicago. The match had been building for months, ever since the closing moments of an ESPN-tv taping. The man from Moscow had bombed American-Olympian Brad Rheingans. Not content with winning, Boris climbed the top rope intending to crash down on Rheingans' lower limbs. Standing nearby, Slaughter rushed in—declaring 'WAR' on the Russian. No summits or SALT II would stop this one. The Sarge was out for blood.

In Chicago, Slaughter made the mistake of underestimating the Soviet's treachery. The American came alone, no allies at his side. Zuchoff did not. His henchman, Chris Markoff was waiting in the wings. No sooner had the Sarge entered the ring, than Zuchoff attacked. Superpower arsenals of straps and loaded boots were called to the front. The Russians





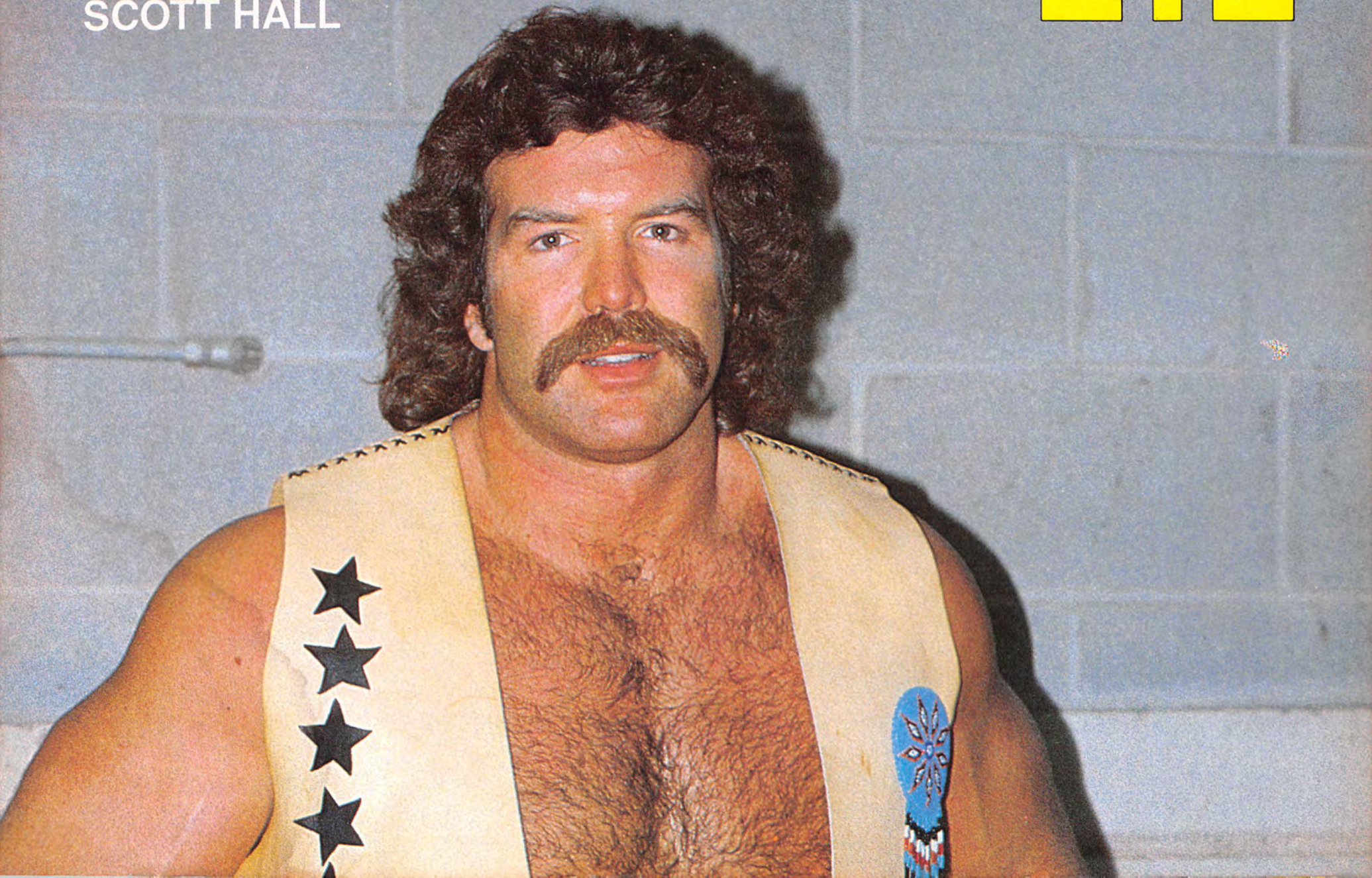
The match was hardly underway when Slaughter was doubled-teamed. Notice, the Soviets are using Slaughter's own gun belt to choke him.

had 'Pearl Harbored' The Americans champ. Cultural exchanges? Forget it, Slaughter needed the Strategic Air Command to drop the 'Big One'. This was the Siege of Leningrad in reverse. Precious moments passed before the Sarge's missile-like fists found their targets. The crafty Russians had outflanked the American, but right makes might. In a final effort, Sarge drove both men to the bargaining table. When Zuchoff didn't return, the referee awarded Slaughter another costly victory.

WRESTLING EYE CENTERFOLD

WRESTLING EYE

SCOTT HALL



RANDY SAVAGE
And Sexy Elizabeth

Photos by Jim Ross

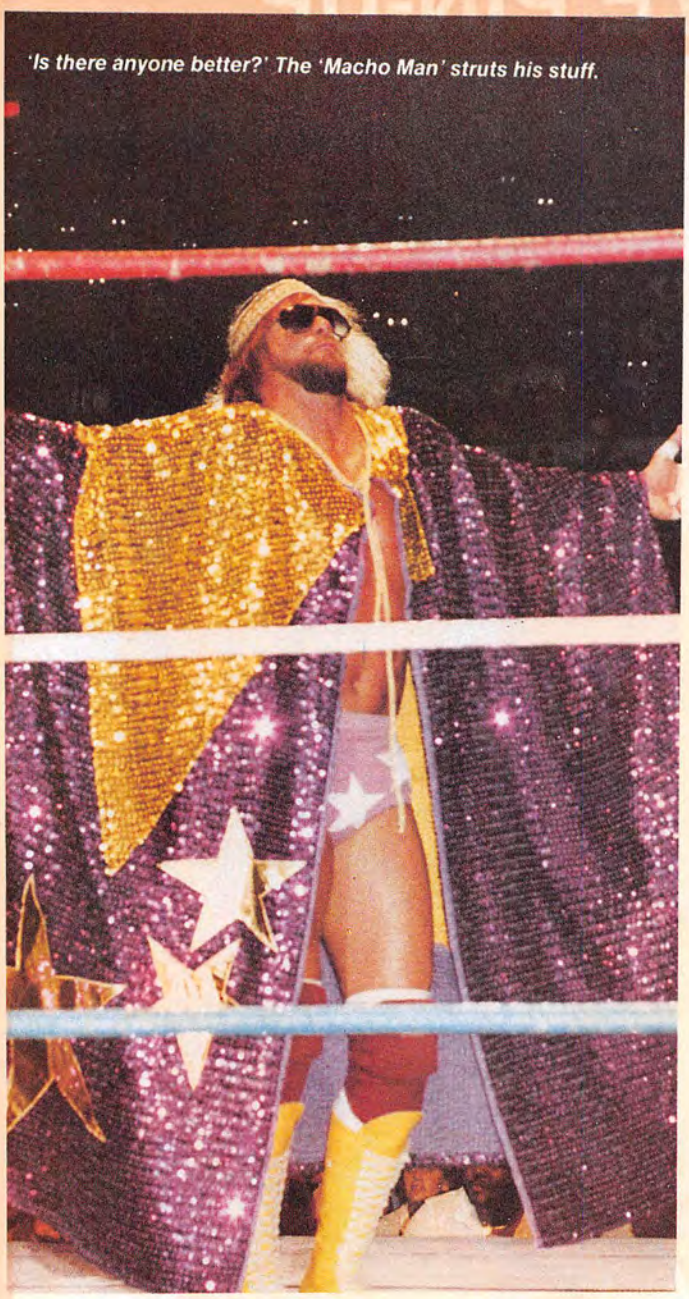
It's a matter of taste, but almost everyone has flipped for the elegant Elizabeth. A curvaceous cutie, she's a gracious change over the brassy Miss Hyatt or sassy Precious. Wrestling fans adore her 'stand-by-your man' disposition. And among the grapplers, her dazzling beauty has fluttered more than one heart. Jesse 'The Body' Ventura publicly threatened to teach Randy 'Macho Man' Savage to respect her or else. The original Neanderthal Man, George 'The Animal' Steel has also fallen under her White-Magic spell.

As Savage's manager, Elizabeth is not scared of the violent-tempered wrestler. On the other hand, she's delighted by his devil-may-care shortcomings. She loves the action and excitement, which have replaced everyday doldrums. But don't let this mislead you. Pretty as she is, Elizabeth will be around only as long as she is needed. Last Thanksgiving, for example, Bobby Heenan seconded the 'Macho Man' against Hulk Hogan in Bloomington, MN. Elizabeth spent her Thanksgiving a thousand miles away and under strict orders not to see anyone.

When push-comes-to-shove, Randy Savage won't let anyone stand in his path. Before dropping Elizabeth temporarily for Heenan, the contemptuous 'Macho Man' bashed-out his own brother 'Leapin' Lanny Poffo. It took him only five frightful minutes to pin Lanny in Uniondale, NY. Randy will make no excuses for it, he doesn't like his poet-acrobat brother.

Believe it or not, this is probably what attracted the sweet Elizabeth to him. Shy and unassuming, she envied Randy's demanding, attention-grabbing personality. She took comfort in the way he browbeat others into submission. Tired of being mundane and ordinary, Liz hoped some of his reckless traits might rub off. Even DEAR ABBY will tell you—opposites attract. Neglected or not, she's not out to change the wild man from Columbus, OH.

However, should she begin to drag her pretty feet, she's finished Randy 'Macho Man' Savage didn't come to the WWF to be passed up. He's hungry and definitely on



'Is there anyone better?' The 'Macho Man' struts his stuff.

Savage is making life difficult for Tito Santana as he applies a chinlock.

the track of something 'big'. In his first Madison Square Garden crack at the Hulkster (Dec. 30, 1985) Savage upset the champ before 26,092 fans, after 14 minutes of bloody battle. Rumors at ringside said that Hulk Hogan deliberately stayed outside the ring. If it's true that Hulk was stalling, then Randy has only been delayed, not stopped. 'More hours in the gym' would be good advice to the Hulkster. There's also Tito Santana and the Intercontinental championship. Here, Randy Savage would be facing a man more his own size.

'Arriba ! Arriba !' won't hold off the temperamental challenger, and the Tex-Mex titlist has been only lucky so far.

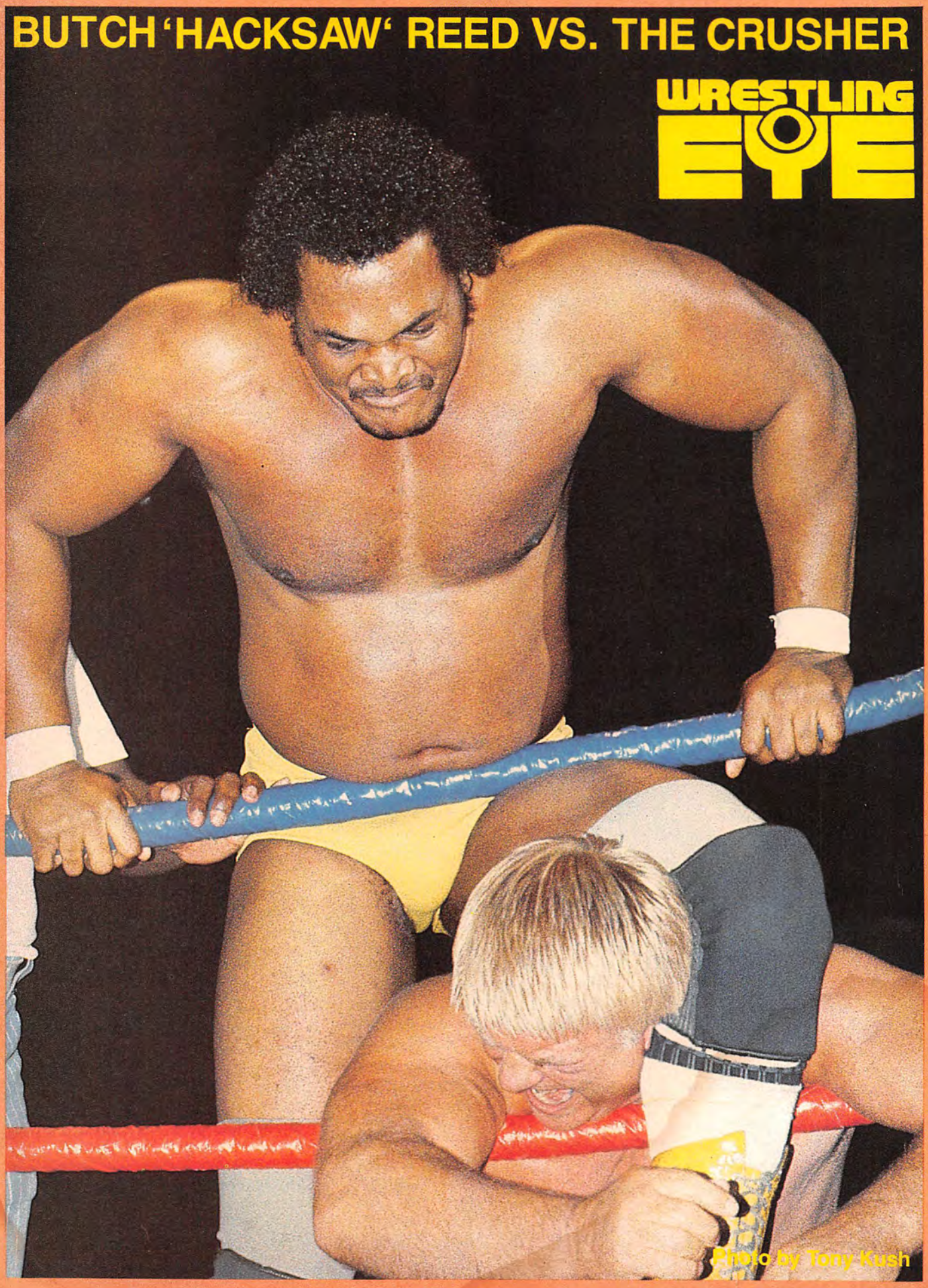
Randy Savage was born on November 15, 1952. As youngsters, he and Lanny saw very little of their wrestling father. A top wrestler, Angelo Poffo, spent a great deal of time on the road, campaigning for a title crack at Buddy 'Nature Boy' Rogers. Lanny, the creative one, filled his empty hours by reading, writing and practicing his gymnastics. Randy was more into roughhousing and playing baseball. After high school, he won himself a spot with the St. Louis Cardinals. Playing in the minors, the 'Macho Man' led the Florida State League in homeruns and RBI's. In the off-season, he wrestled under a mask as 'The Spider'. In 1976, Randy chose grunts & groans over bats & balls.

Together, the Poffo's formed a powerful tag team combination. However, the emotional childhood competition for their father's limited attention resurfaced. Things were fine until Lanny won the ICW championship. Then the ceiling was off and the stakes were raised. Randy took off after his brother as if they were bitter enemies. He couldn't stand his well-behaved brother doing better, especially in the sport of their father. On July 21, 1979, the 'Macho Man' beat Lanny for the title. The victory was somewhat shallow and meaningless.

In the WWF, Randy Savage seeks redemption!

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

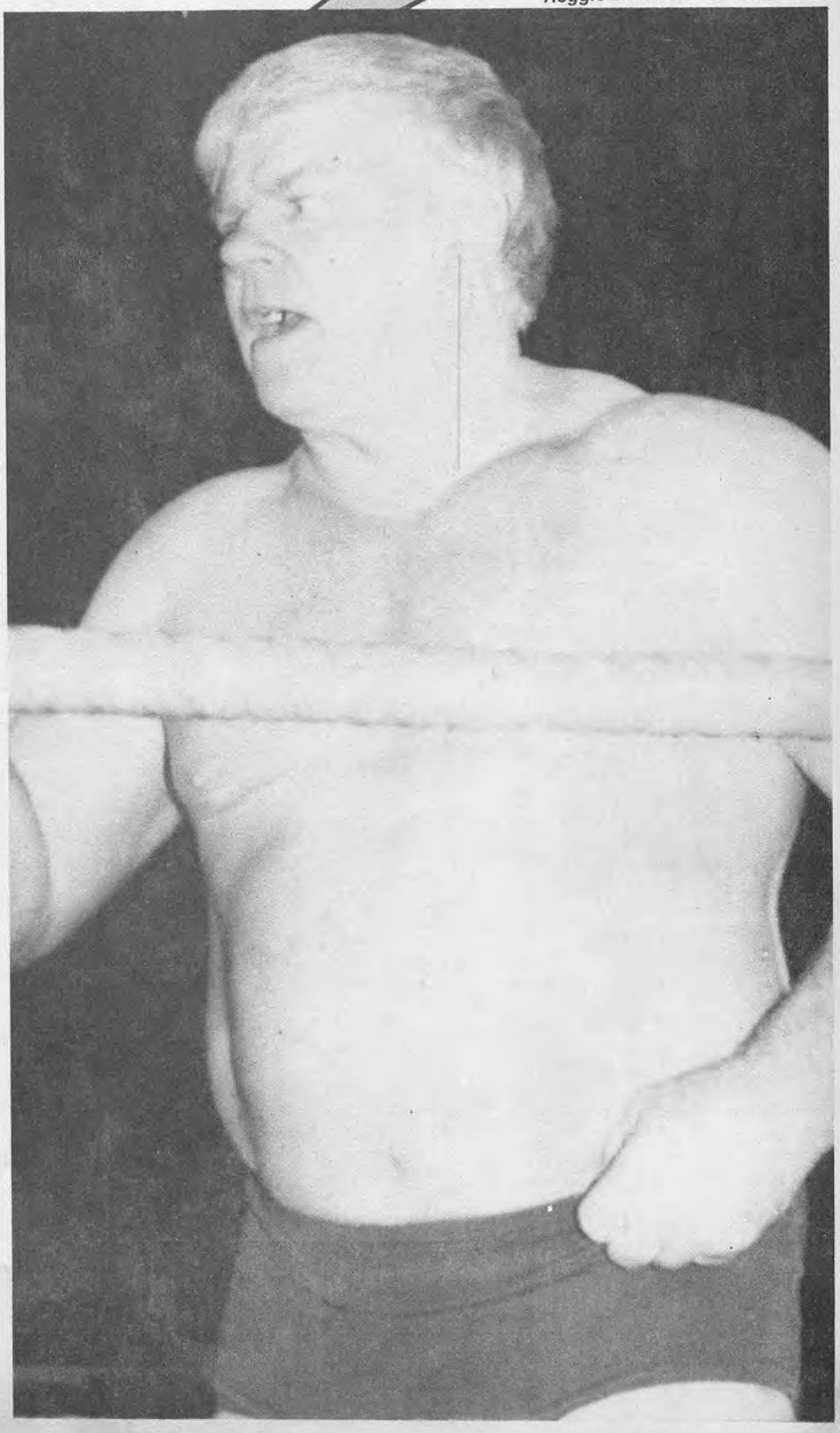
BUTCH 'HACKSAW' REED VS. THE CRUSHER



DICK THE BRUISER & THE CRUSHER

Round Two!

By Mike Bellew
Photo by Tony Kush



Reggie Lisowski—The Crusher.

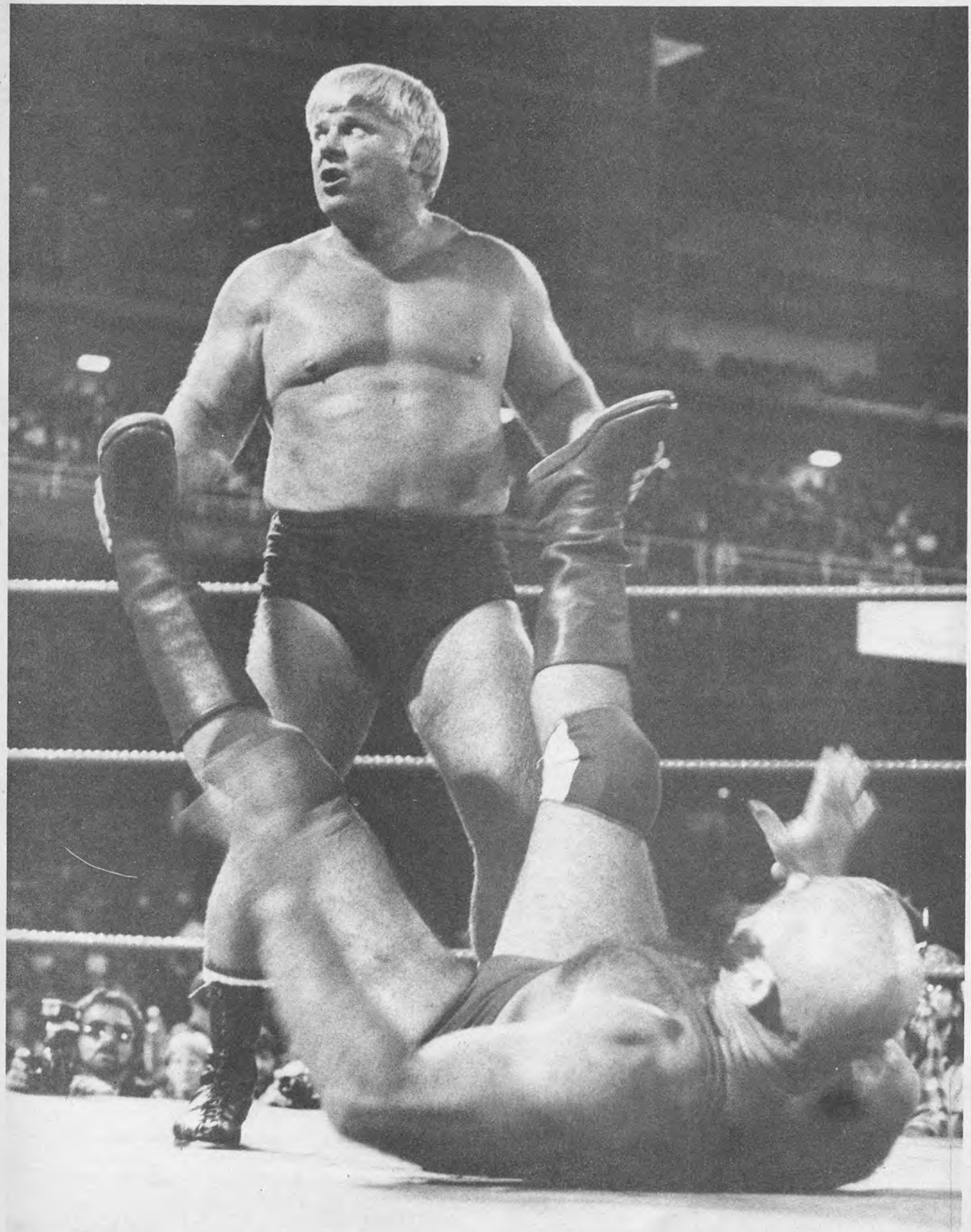
It's a dream that runs over and over again. The Bruiser has Steve Regal suspended way over his head, while The Crusher pounds away at Garvin in the far corner. The Crusher swings Jimmy to the canvas at Garvin in the far corner. The Crusher swings Jimmy to the Canvas with a hip toss; and Bruiser dumps Regal on top. The referee doesn't even bother with a formal three-count. Simply, the AWA tag team belts awarded to their new owners—the Muscle Men From Milwaukee.

"It ain't just a dream," boasted The Bruiser. "It's a premonition, like Julius Caesar and the Ides of March! Regal and Garvin ain't in our league. We'll murder the bums."

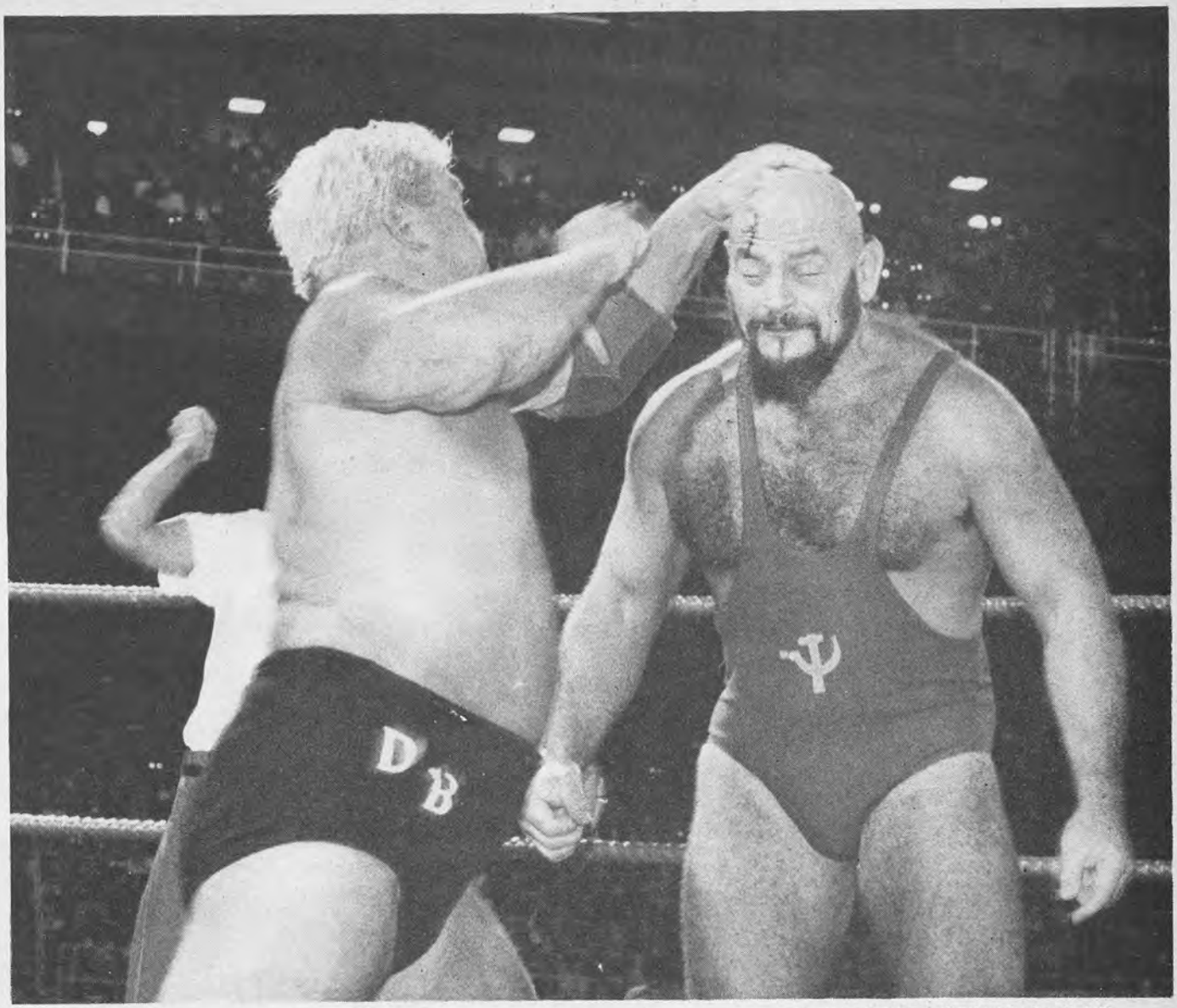
The Bruiser and The Crusher are a striking contrast to other tag team. For one thing, they're older than the hills. These two beer-guzzling loud-mouths have been around since Elvis and Ike. The Bruiser played offensive guard for the 1951-54 Green Bay Packers. His cousin, the Crusher, started wrestling with the long-since retired Stan Holek. The Bruiser etched his scrawl into the history books when he started the infamous 1957 Madison Square Garden Riot (EDITOR'S NOTE: see WRESTLING EYE # 1 for details). As old as they are, The Bruiser and Crusher have the emotional age of spoiled ten year-olds, coupled with superhuman strength. If they don't get their way—watch out! Regal and Garvin shouldn't sleep well until these guys are firmly retired.

With the Road Warriors, the strongest team in wrestling, in the NWA, the way is clear for Crusher and Bruiser. Don't be surprised if this arrogant duo win back their belts.

"The titles don't mean a thing," snarls The Crusher. "The belts I'd like to have are the ones I plant on



With the Road Warriors in the NWA, Crusher & Bruiser are now the strongest team in the AWA.



A furious Dick The Bruiser belts Koloff.

Garvin's glass jaw. The guy's a wimp and he needs a haircut." The Bruiser wouldn't mind giving Steve Regal a flat-top. "Imagine, two of the wimpiest guys in wrassling stinking up our belts."

Dick The Bruiser was born Richard Afflis in Indianapolis, IN. He won a football scholarship to the University of Nevada, where he majored in beer-drinking. After three years of pro ball with the Packers, Afflis chose to wrassle. His style was never for the weak hearted—a snapmare and hip toss, but mostly slamming and bamming. He did well as an individual, but things really heated up when he teamed with cousin Reggie Lisowski—The Crusher. Reggie was also a brawler and good wrestler, even holding the AWA world title briefly. But together, they were the strongest and toughest combination around.

"We never retired," denies Crusher. "What's to retire? No one could ever beat us and as long as we're beating everyone out there, what's the point?" In the old days, they slugged it out with Buddy Rogers and Lou Thesz; today it's Abdullah and Blackwell. "I think it's gone strictly downhill. Some of these young punks don't weigh enough to be golfers, never mind wrestlers. In them days Garvin and Regal would have been ring attendants."

To this day people still talk about the time The Bruiser broke up Alex Karras' joint. The ex-Detroit Lions guard, now the co-star of 'Webster', had foolishly agreed to wrestle Dick. On the eve of their legal get-together, The Bruiser paid a personal call at Alex's nightclub in downtown Detroit. The Bruiser challenged Karras to come outside; he refused. This upset the wrestler even more and he savagely attacked Karras behind the bar. When the police arrived, The Bruiser still wouldn't behave. Two officers were severely injured—a broken leg and three broken ribs—before others managed to cuff Dick.

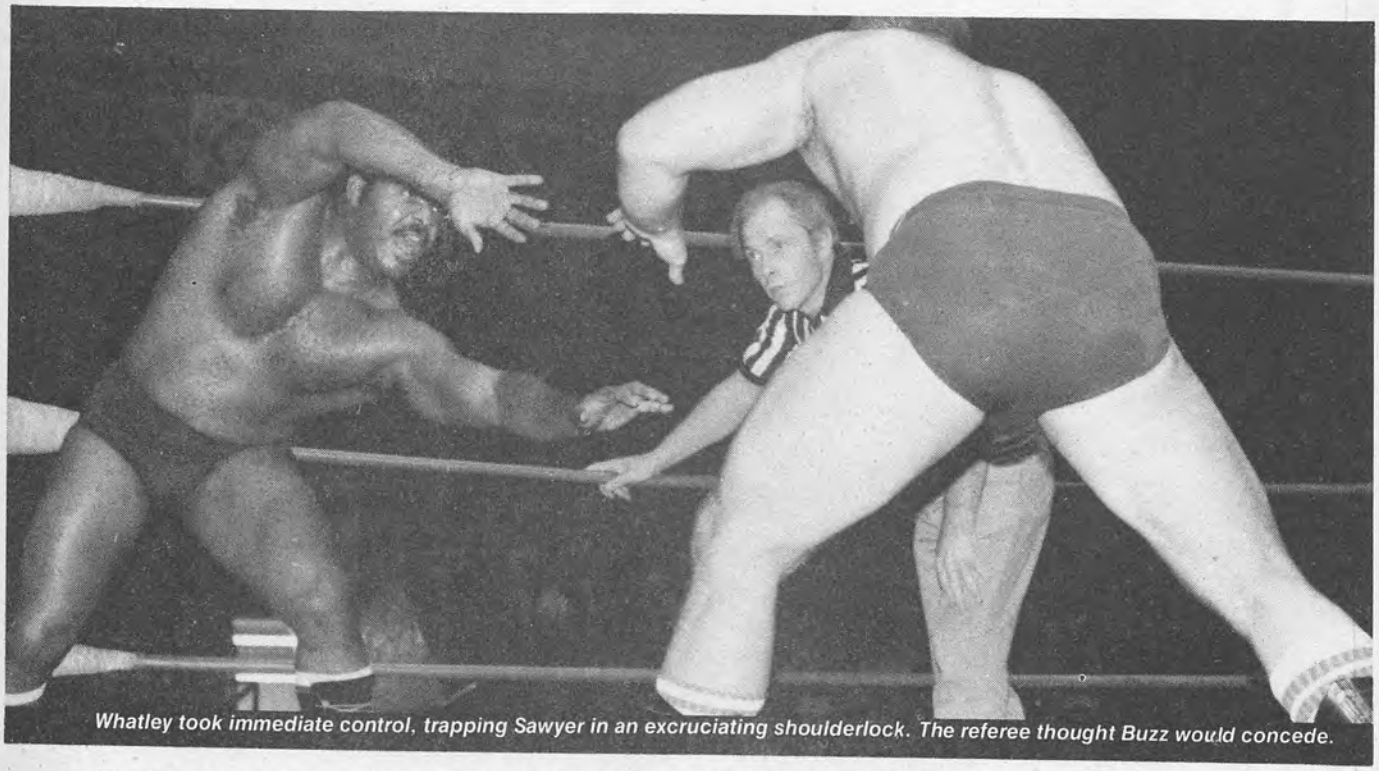
The Crusher is just as far from sainthood. A lit cigar is his favorite weapon. "Stick that in someone's face and watch how quick they'll run home to mommy." However, the fans love them, and most feel The Bruiser and Crusher are merely fighting fire with fire. "Beating the bad guys, that's what we're about," says The Bruiser. "We've had a long hard climb to the top, and these punks try to get ahead without the hard work."

"We don't care how nice looking Regal and Garvin are, they're cat chow after we get through with 'em," laughs The Crusher.

MATCH OF THE MONTH

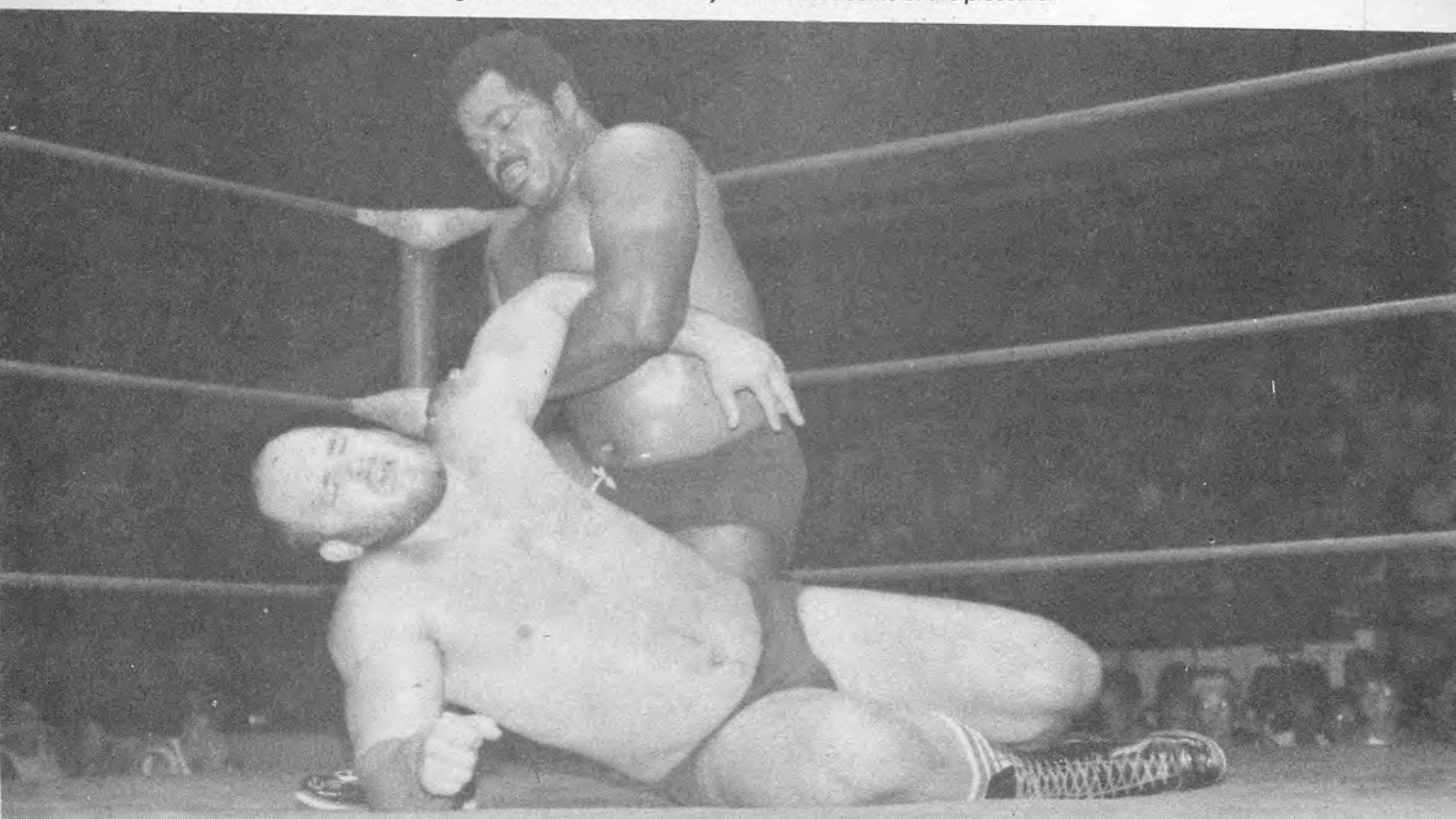
Buzz Sawyer vs. 'Pistol' Pete Whatley

Photos by Tony Kush

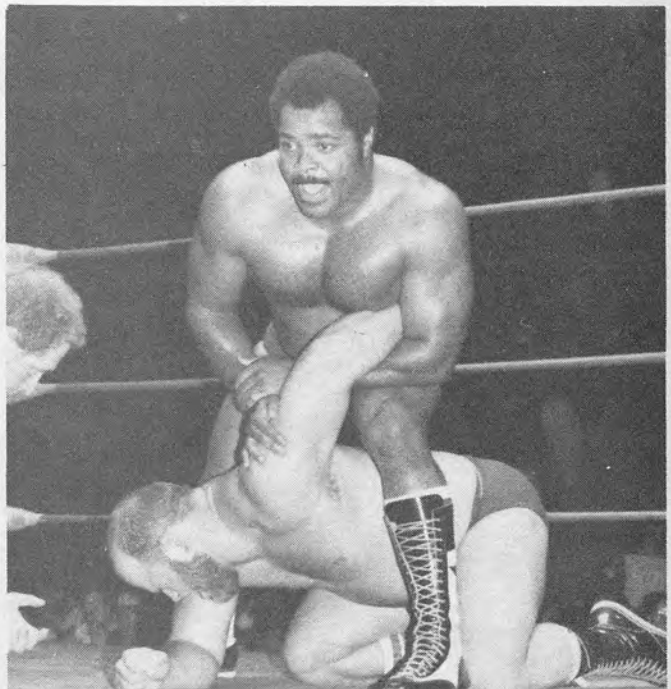


Whatley took immediate control, trapping Sawyer in an excruciating shoulderlock. The referee thought Buzz would concede.

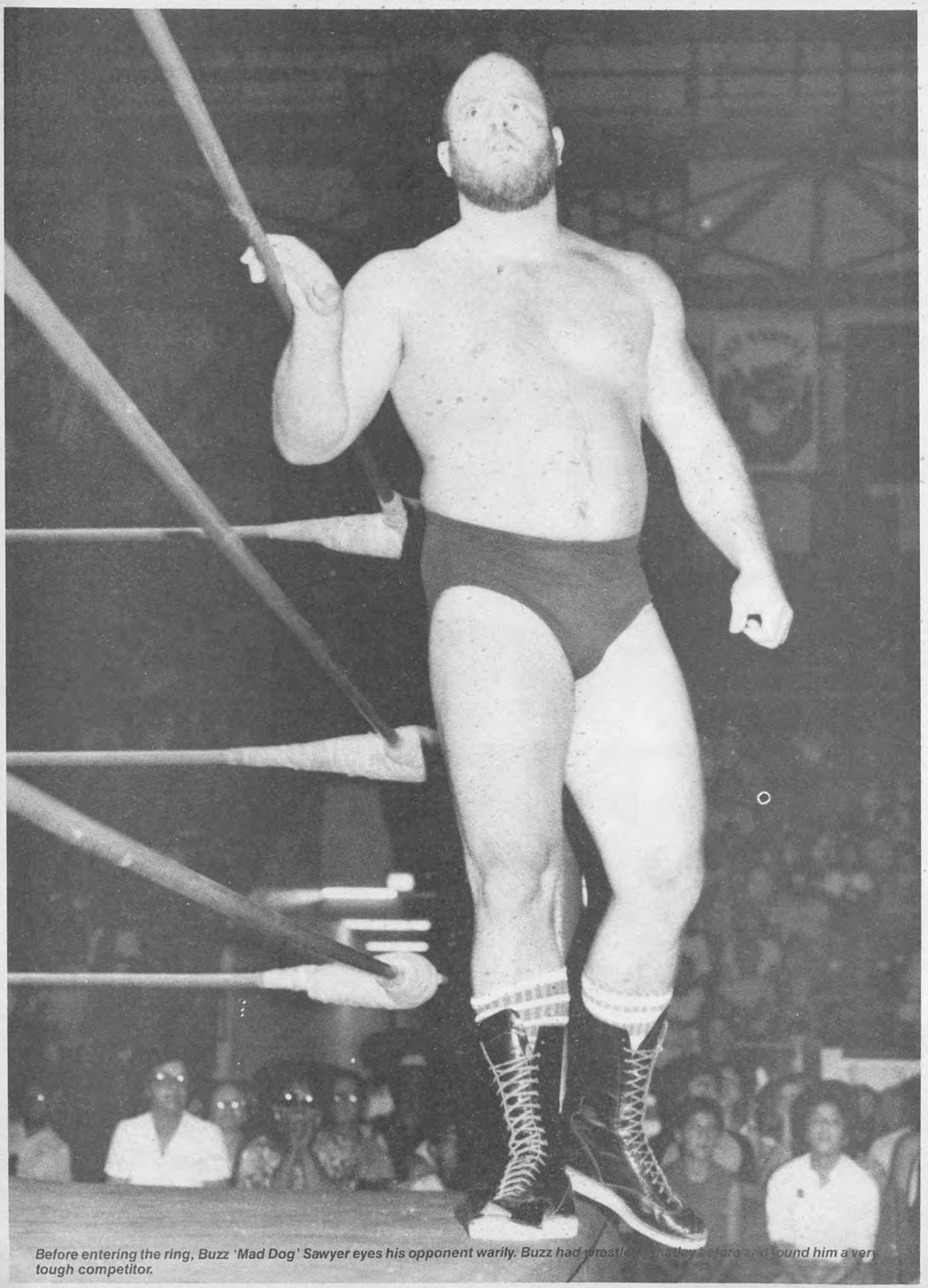
Minutes passed before 'Mad Dog' was able to twist sideways and relieve some of the pressure.



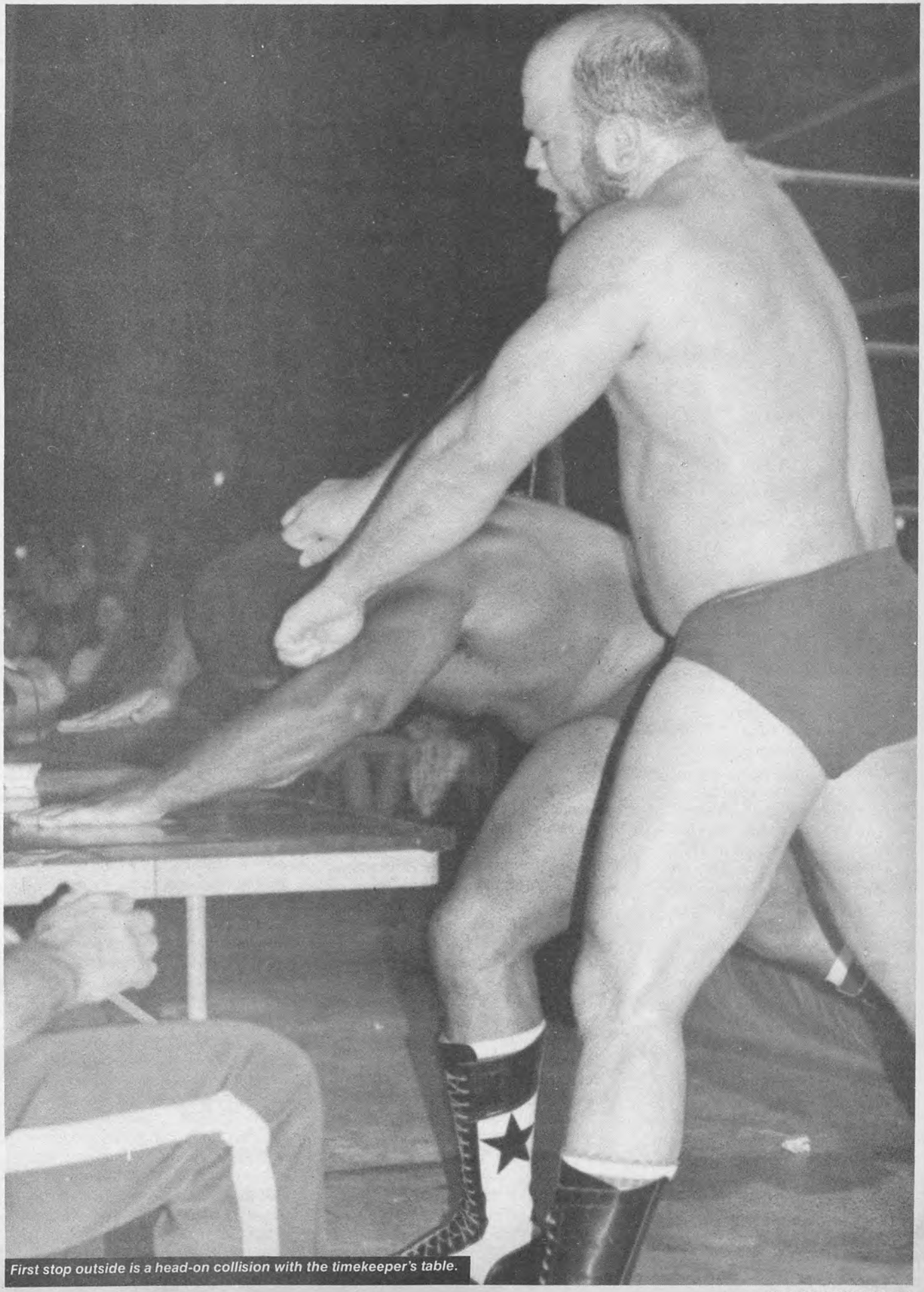
Revenge was on Sawyer's mind when he suplexed Pete to the hard stadium floor. The referee counted both wrestlers out-ending the brawl in a double disqualification



Up on their feet, Sawyer softened up 'Pistol' Pete with a few good chops to the jaw and temples.



Before entering the ring, Buzz 'Mad Dog' Sawyer eyes his opponent warily. Buzz had wrestled [illegible] before and found him a very tough competitor.



First stop outside is a head-on collision with the timekeeper's table.

'FLYING' BILL ANDERSON
Making The Grade

Text & Photos by Lester Karlson

A co-star of the wrestling movie 'GRUNT', Anderson (L) is familiar with the Hollywood Scene. Here, he bodyguards Linda 'EXORCIST' Blair.

I recently asked Billy if he thought he would ever go on the road full time, and aim for that championship and a big career?

Bill's answer was a simple yes.

The Phoenix-based wrestler went on to say that he intends to go on a nationwide tour in 1986. Promoters from that country are interested in having Billy appear, and talks are currently going on to secure his services.

Publicity sheets and photographs have been sent to several wrestling offices, and by the time this publication gets on the stands there is a great possibility that Billy Anderson will be wrestling in your area.

Wrestling promoters and their booking agents keep on top of young talent, and there have been favorable reports and results from Southern California and from Mexico where Billy Anderson is considered Gringo # 1. Smart promoters want assets in their territories, not liabilities.

We mentioned when this article started that Billy was trained by Kurt Von Steiger. The German wrestler was a keen amateur and was a very successful member of the German Olympic team. When he was not coaching the youngster from Phoenix, Kurt made sure that his protege understood the whole sphere of wrestling. He would often sit down and have Billy set up a ring by himself, a task that is not as easy as it sounds.

Discipline and hard training were the ingredients of the Kurt Von Steiger recipe for success.

Billy Anderson is a product of the German mat master, and his lessons have paid off.

Wrestling Eye hopes and wishes Billy Anderson every success in his efforts to capture the fame and fortune he desires.

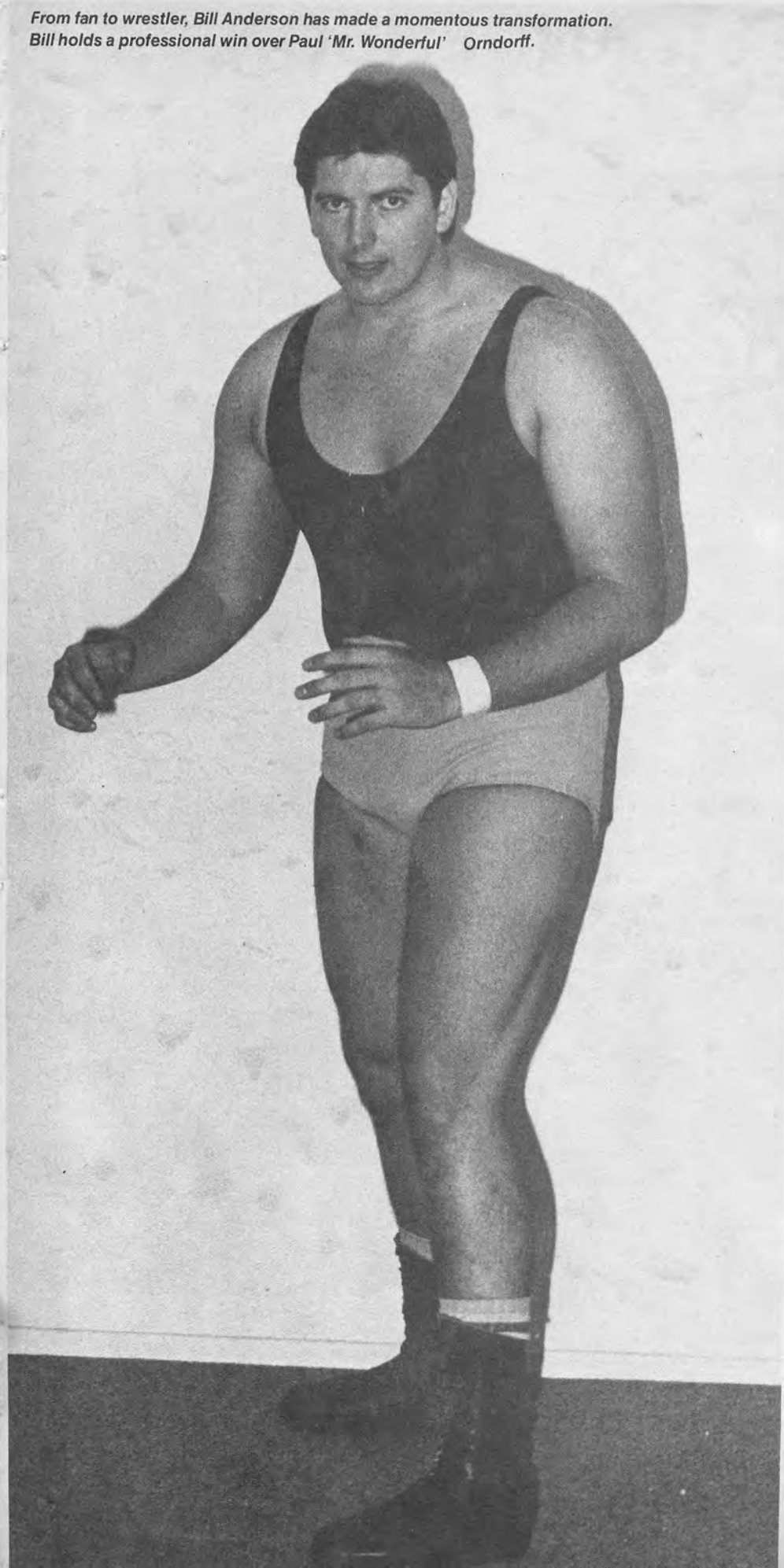
He started his wrestling career as a fan at the age of five. That was twenty years ago, and the years have brought him a lot of success and personal satisfaction.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, he moved with his family to Phoenix, Az at a young age and has had close ties with that city and state ever since.

It was in Phoenix that he became a wrestler at the age of 16. He was trained by Kurt Von Steiger, former co-holder of the World Tag Team Championship. The hard work and training by the German took hold and brought the youngster the junior heavyweight championship of the State of Arizona six weeks after making his professional debut. Eight months after, he won the Southwest Junior heavyweight title.

Billy packed his bags and moved to Memphis, where he wrestled for a short stint before leaving the wrestling business and heading to Chicago. He lived and worked in the Windy City area for five years. During that time he became involved with an independent promotion there, and was a fast-rising star for them. He was spotted by a member of the Indianapolis-based WWA. They signed Billy up for some matches and he became a

From fan to wrestler, Bill Anderson has made a momentous transformation. Bill holds a professional win over Paul 'Mr. Wonderful' Orndorff.



WRESTLING EYE

great favorite for the organization.

The call to return to Arizona beckoned him. When he did, it was only a short time till he once again became a state champion. This time he was in the heavyweight division. He stayed in the area for several years and became a top favorite for a number of promotions there.

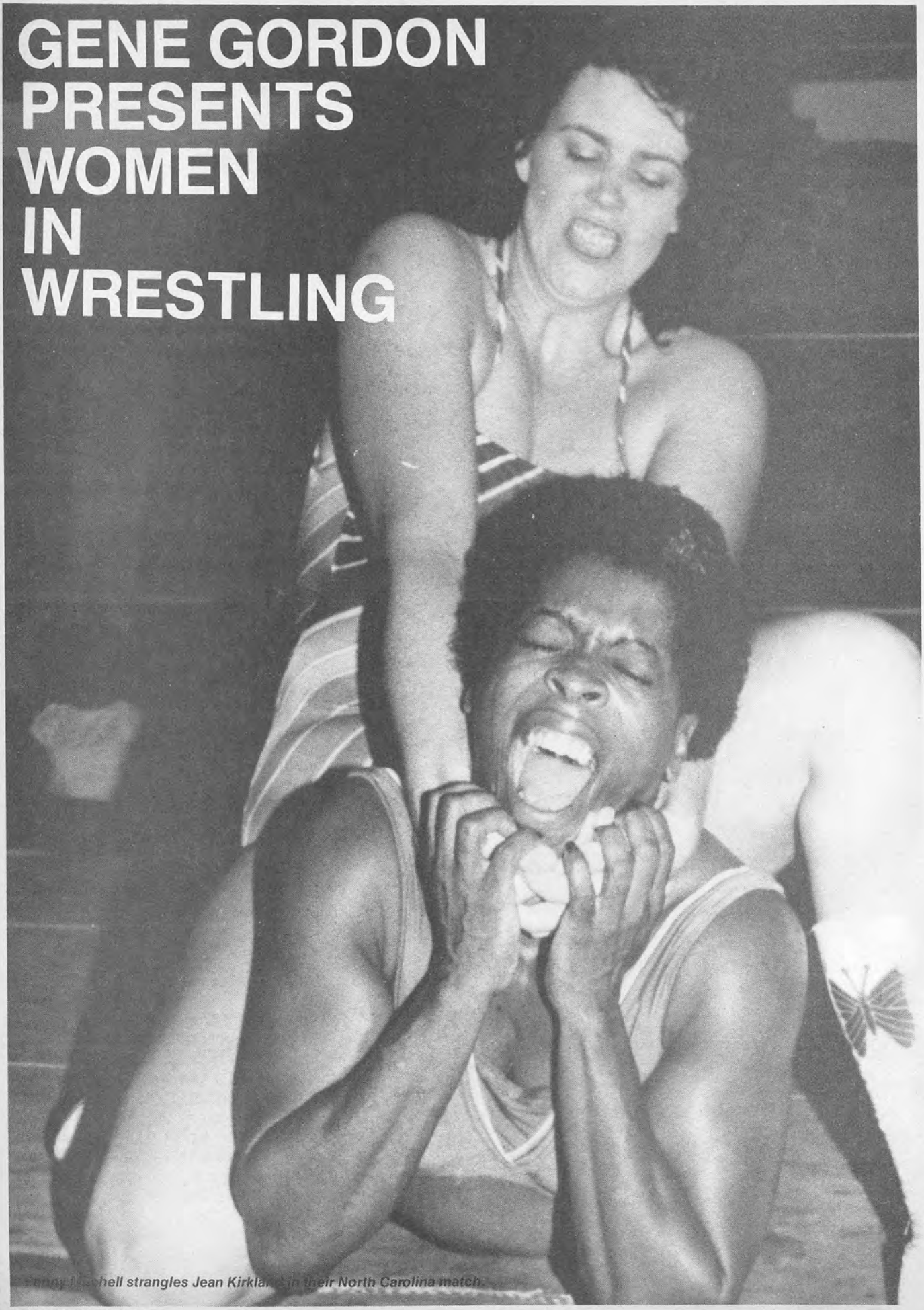
A move to California brought him success and fame. On a World Wrestling Federation card at the Olympic Auditorium, before a packed house of 10,000 fans, he pinned Paul "Wonderful" Orndorff to the mat for the count of three. Billy Anderson is one of the few wrestlers ever to win such a decisive victory over the top star of the WWF.

What has happened to Billy Anderson since that nite and WHO is Billy Anderson?

Billy Anderson is 25 years old, stands 6 feet and weighs in at 245 pounds of solid muscle. A good-looking single fellow, he's a quiet individual, a non-smoker and drinker, and a strong man of convictions against the use of drugs. He can justly be called an All American boy, not only in real life, but also as a wrestling personality.

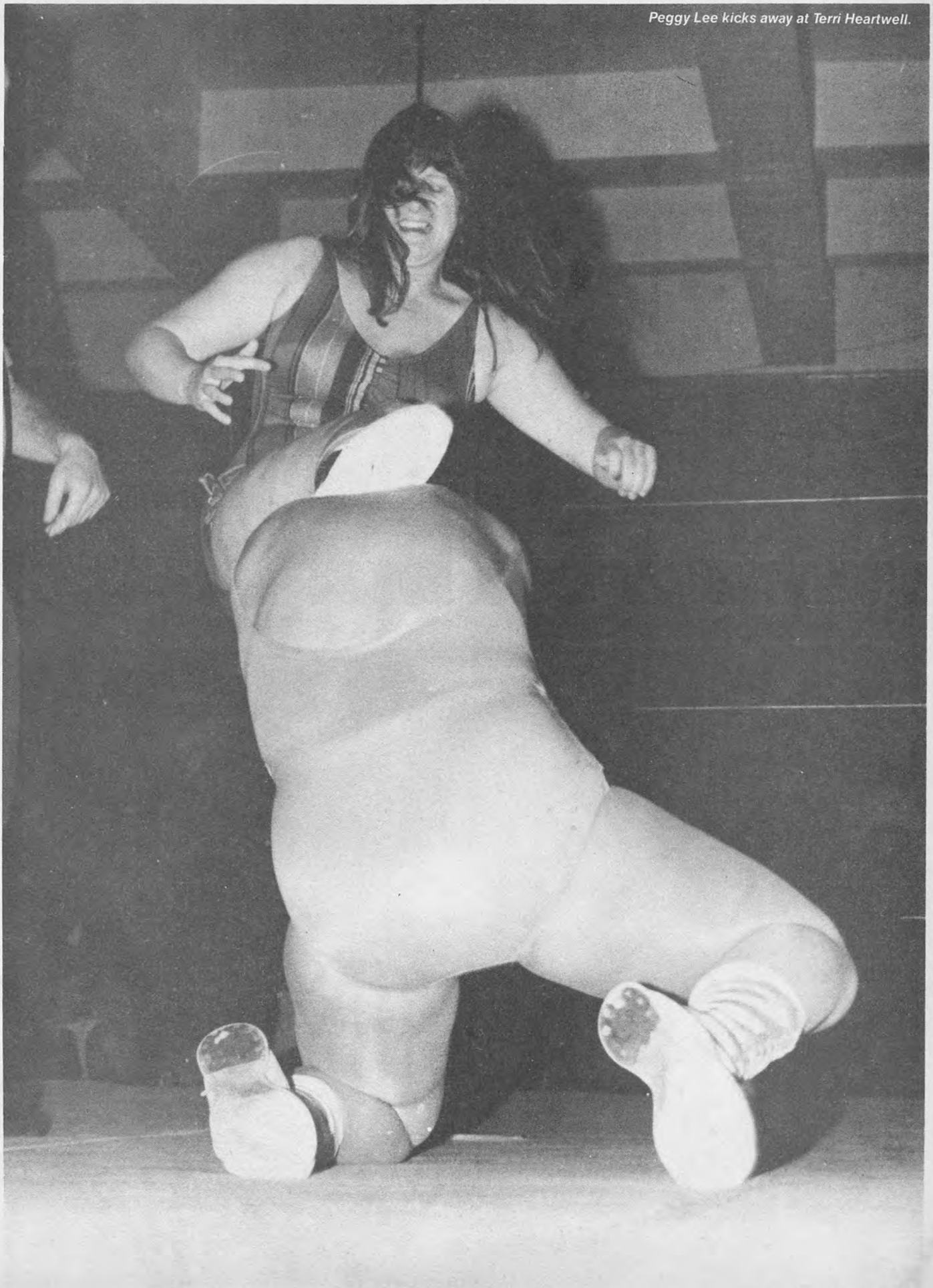
His wrestling style is that of the old school. No super hype, no gimmicks, just plain good old wrestling. At times his abilities in the ring startle not only his opponents but also the fans and promoters. Why then hasn't Billy Anderson made it to the limelight? A good question. The answer is multiple. Billy has diluted his wrestling career with several other business ventures. The most recent is that of a movie star. The silver screen has become a part of Billy's portfolio. He has a part in the newly released movie, GRUNT. Billy has also done a TV commercial for blue jeans, and has some other TV work lined up. His other interest is that of police and law enforcement. He is currently taking courses in this field at a community college in the Los Angeles area.

GENE GORDON PRESENTS WOMEN IN WRESTLING

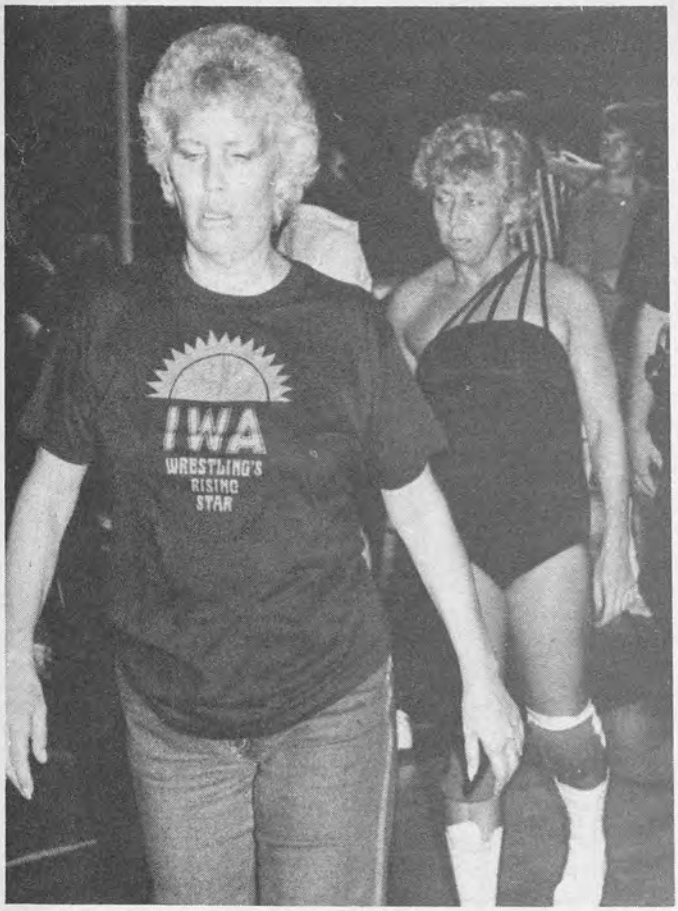


Sandy Mitchell strangles Jean Kirkland in their North Carolina match.

Photos by Gene Gordon

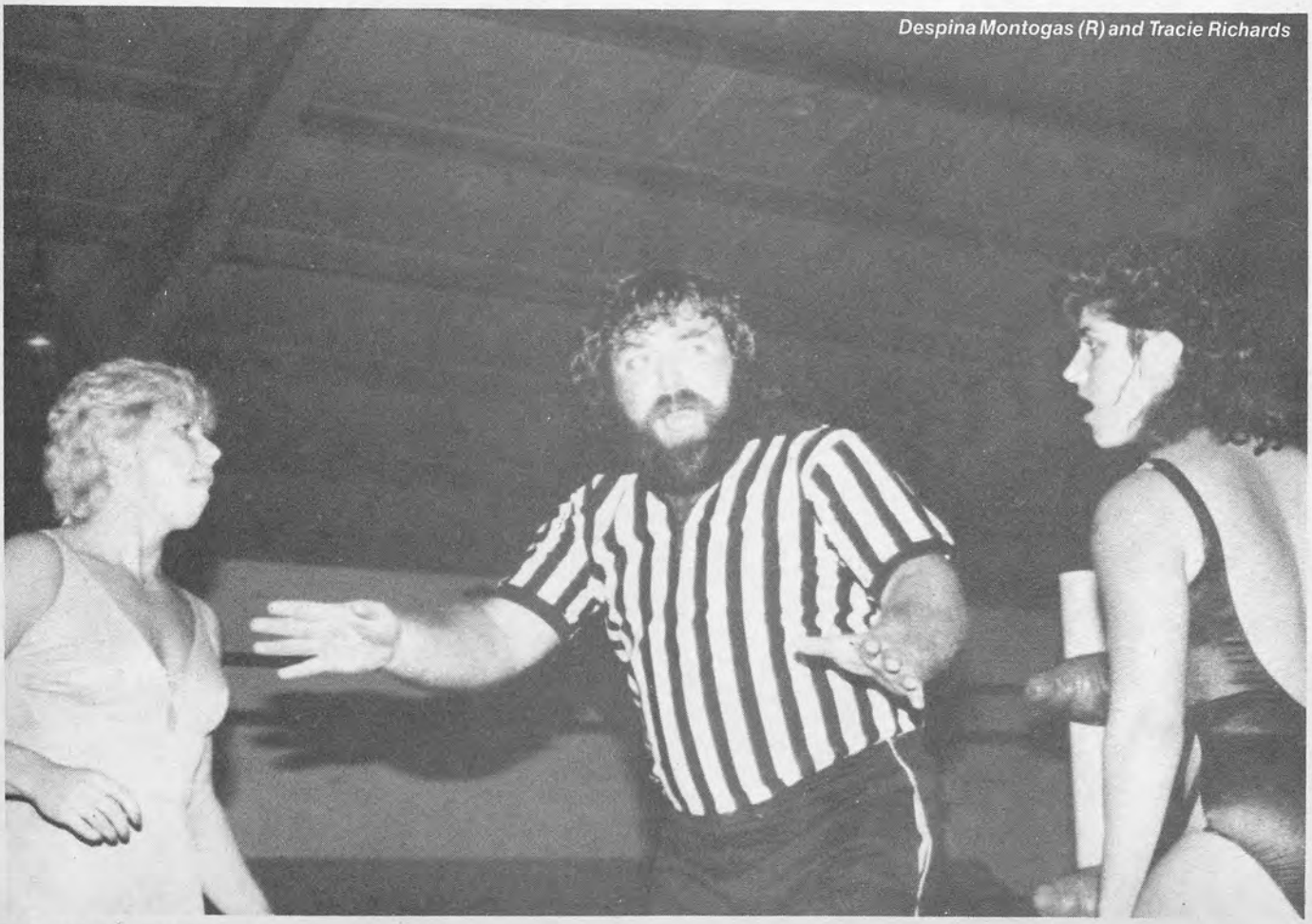


Peggy Lee kicks away at Terri Heartwell.



Tracie Richards (R) is led to the ring by her manager Bev Shade.

Lisa Darnell, a big favorite with Western fans.



Despina Montogas (R) and Tracie Richards

Jackie Bradley has a hammerlock on Lisa Darnell.

PROMOTER OF THE MONTH

Tor Berg

Photo & Text by Matt James

Third from the left, Tor Berg never misses a match at the Sullivan Arena.

Excitement spread throughout the state when promoter Tor Berg informed Alaskans that big time wrestling would be making its debut before summer's end.

"It's about time!" shouted enthusiastic fans. Sure there's plenty of wrestling on the tube; but as lower 48 fans have known for many years-you have to be there in person to really capture the excitement pro wrestling generates. Alaska was no longer going to be left out in the cold.

Alaskan fans got their first taste of "live Mat action" on rainy August night this past summer. The A.W.A. was in town and the rowdy crowd roared their approval as the beloved Sgt. Slaughter entered the ring to do battle with hated Larry Zbyszko in the evening's main event. The bout ended in shocking fashion when Nick Bockwinkle stormed from the dressing room and proceeded to assist Zbyszko in executing a crunching double piledriver onto the concrete floor. The 'Sarge had to miss a month's worth of matches due to a neck injury. Down but not out, the good Sarge swore revenge.

Three thousand fans left the Sullivan Arena that night with hoarse voices and only one question on their mind: "When's the next wrestling card?!?" Enter promoter Tor Berg. Mr. Berg is the president of Alaska All Star Wrestling, and since that first August card, he has promoted several others in Alaska. Thanks to Tor, fans have been treated to such stars as Freebird Mike Hayes, Buck Zum Hofe, Larry Zbyszko, Iceman Burk VanCamp, Scott Hall, and many other big guns of pro wrestling. This past October, Mr. Berg put Alaska on the wrestling map by arranging not one, but TWO world title matches in the same night! Lovely Candi Divine had a real tough battle against the rugged Canadian Sherry Martel, but managed to pin her opponent and retain her A.W.A. World's Women's Title. The second match saw A.W.A. World Heavyweight Champion Rick Martel lose by D.Q. to Freebird Mike Hayes, although he kept his title.

Berg, a former grappler, prides himself on promoting consistently top-rate wrestling cards. He's quick to point out that many of the big promoters are no longer interested in presenting quality matches to the public.

"Promoters like Vince McMahon (WWF President) are purposely making a joke out of the sport to attract a new breed of fan, and make money. I think they're backstabbing all the loyal fans who were there long before the Cyndi Lauper's. The man is promoting a circus instead of a sport, which is why his wrestlers have little credibility as athletes...In any case Hulk Hogan couldn't wrestle his way out of a paper bag! The man is the Walt Disney of wrestling, and when this fad fades away he'll look around and realize all those blood and gut fans he abandoned have now left him."

Convinced that WWP Heavyweight Champion Hulk Hogan lacks true wrestling skills, Berg recently announced plans to sponsor a $100,000.00 Winner Take All match between Hogan and A.W.A. Champion Rick Martel. Martel quickly agreed to the challenge match but, as of press time, Hogan has yet to respond.

In his ongoing effort to showcase only the best talent, Berg has decided to book stars all over the wrestling globe.

Berg will also no longer promote exclusively in Alaska. Plans are now in the works to present cards in Guam, The Fiji Islands, Western and Eastern Samoa, and the Phillipines.

"We want our style of promoting to reach audiences who've never had the opportunity to view professional wrestling."

We at WRESTLING EYE salute Tor Berg and the entire All Star staff for their hard work in upholding the "sport" element of pro wrestling.

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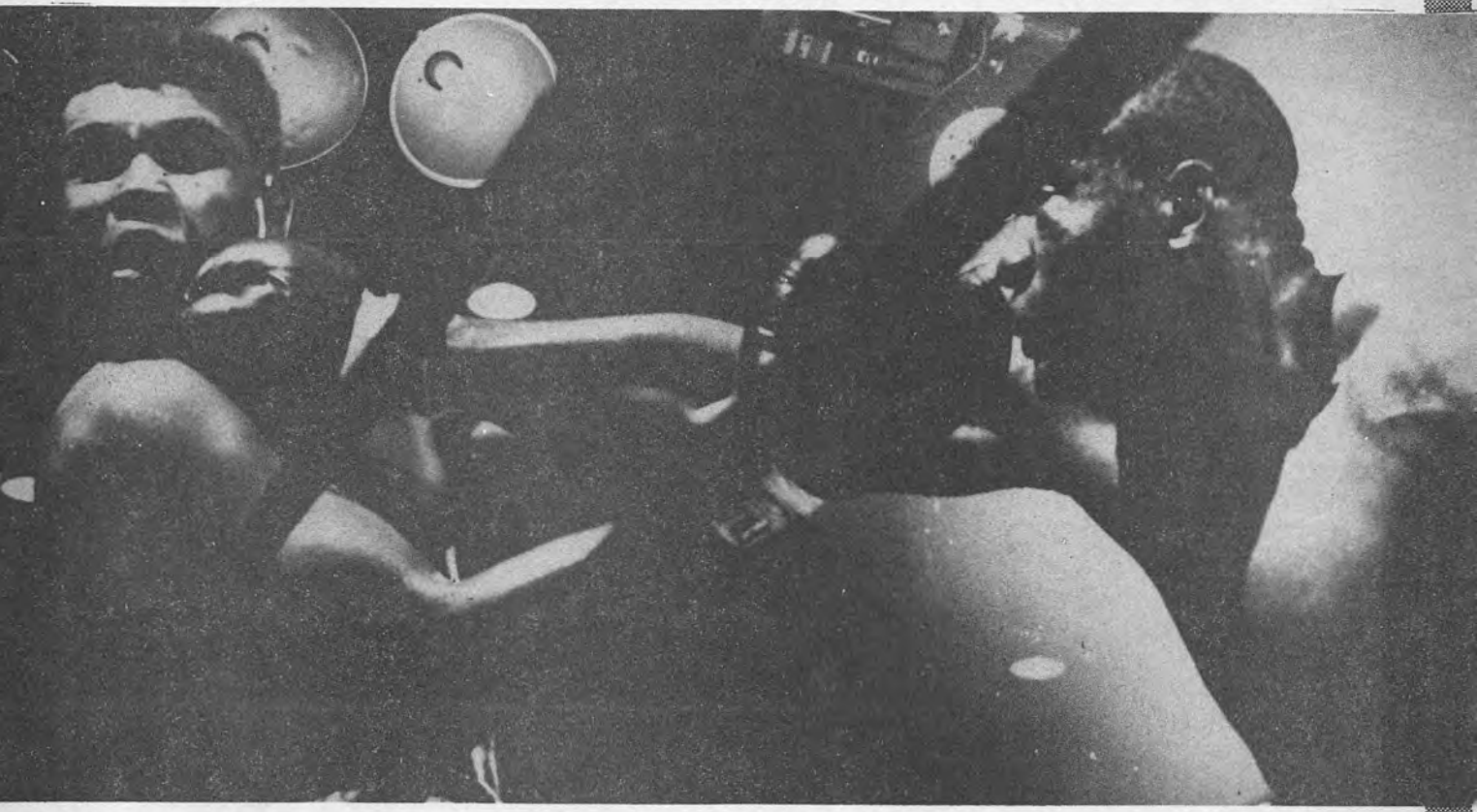

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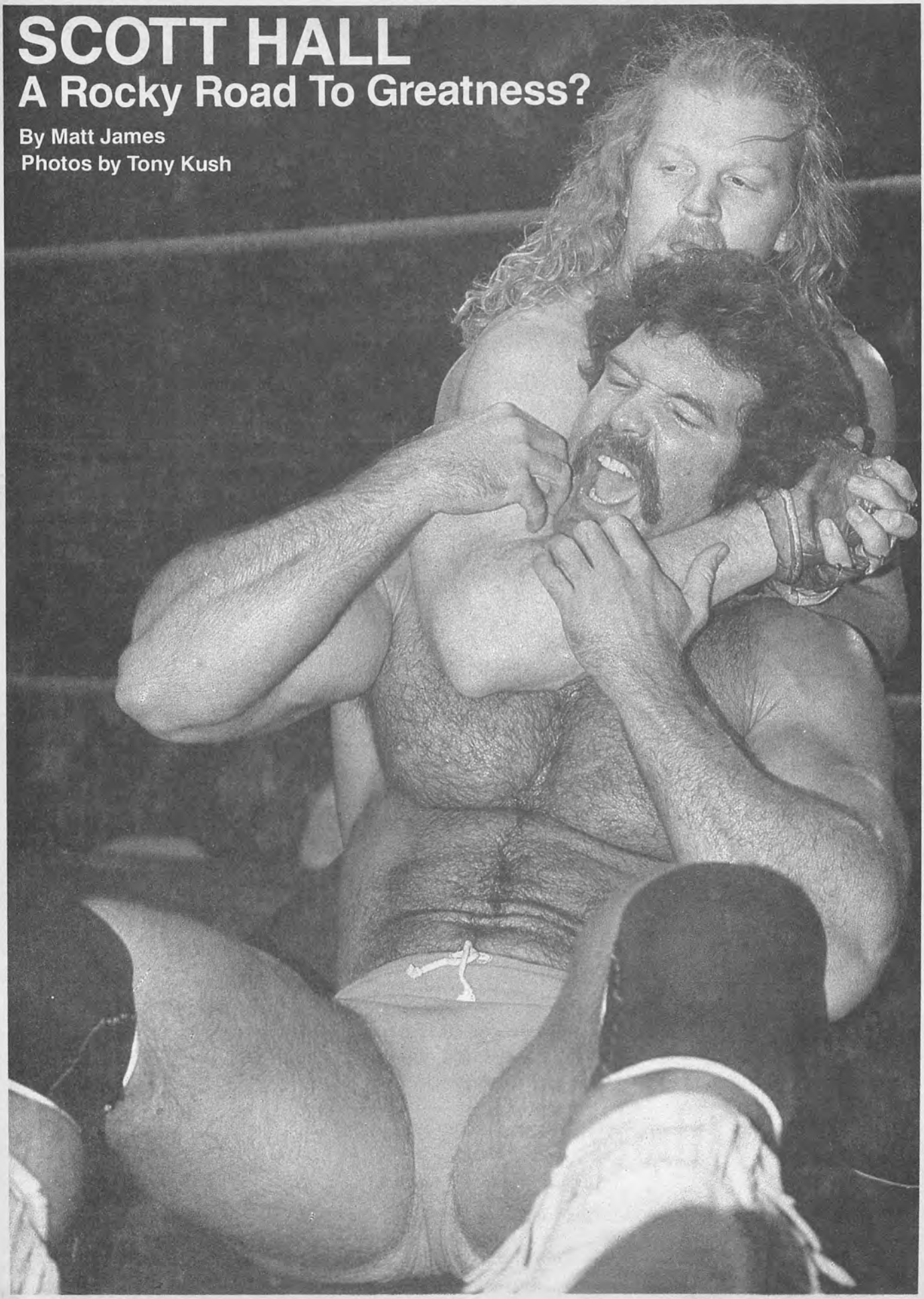
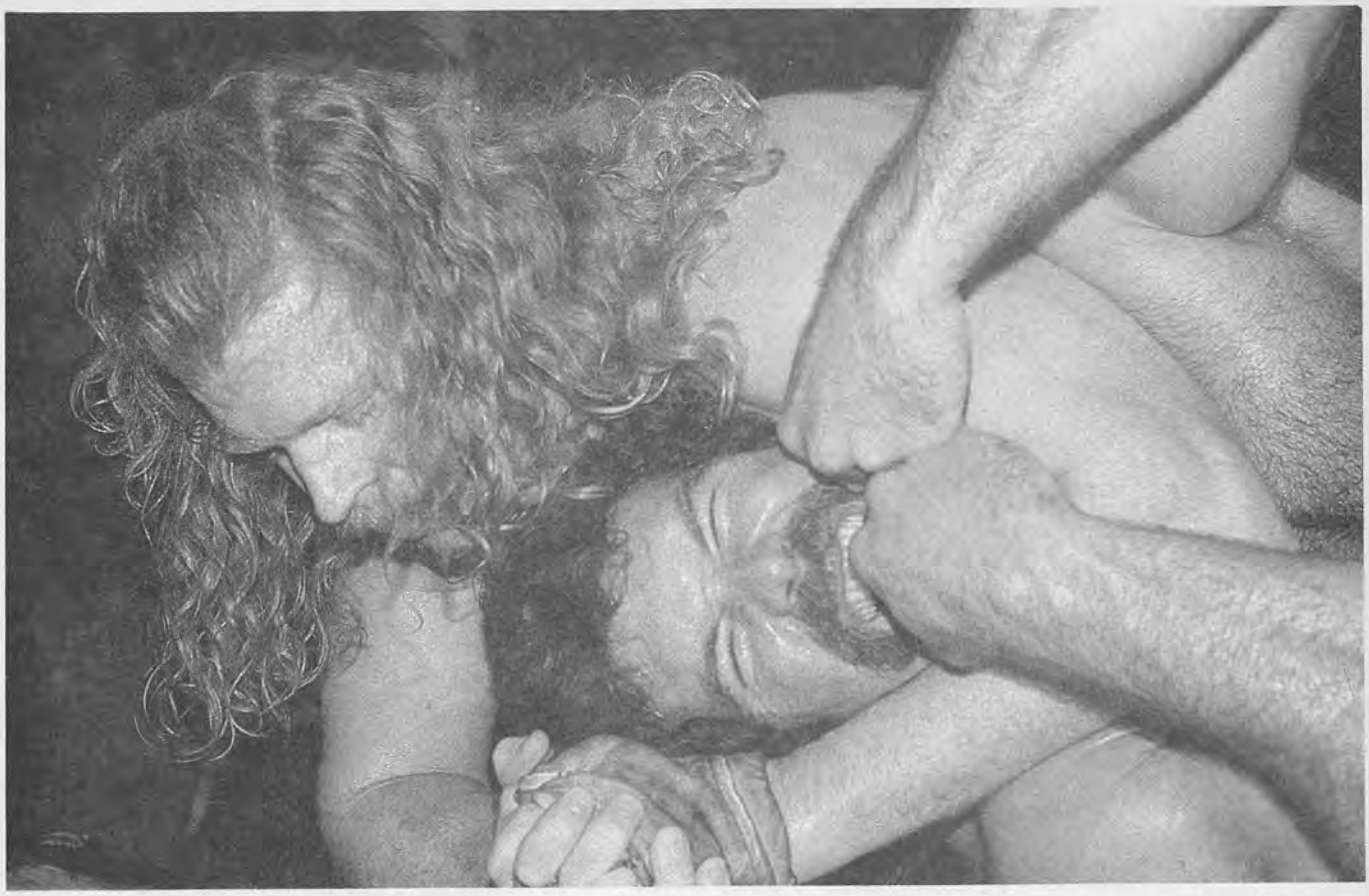
SCOTT HALL
A Rocky Road To Greatness?

By Matt James
Photos by Tony Kush





Ask any pro wrestler and he or she will tell you breaking into the Mat-Sport is no easy task. Due to an abundance of talented grapplers out there, today's promoter is pickier than ever. If you're a beginning wrestler, in most cases you had better have an impressive amateur background or else forget about signing with a major promotion. An unwritten law in the wrestling business states that unless you're an Abdullah the Butcher clone, you can't make it to the top without a solid amateur foundation. Fortunately, there are exceptions to this rule; one young rising star is proving he can beat the odds.

His name is Scott Hall and he's currently a top ten contender for Rick Martel's A.W.A. World Heavyweight Championship. Unlike a Bob Backlund or Ric Flair, Hall knows far more about weight-lifting and bodybuilding than how many points you score for a reversal in amateur competition. Nevertheless at 6'9" and weighting a solid 290 pounds, Hall is one of the sport's most imposing warriors. Through the early guidance of Ricky Steamboat, Scott literally went straight from the gym to a wrestling ring and it has been nothing but smooth sailing; at least thus far.

Wrestling's self proclaimed "New Living Legend," Larry Zbyszko, calls Scott Hall:

"A big, tough monster...one of the strongest and most determined guys out there." Quite a compliment coming from the egomaniacal veteran Zbyszko!

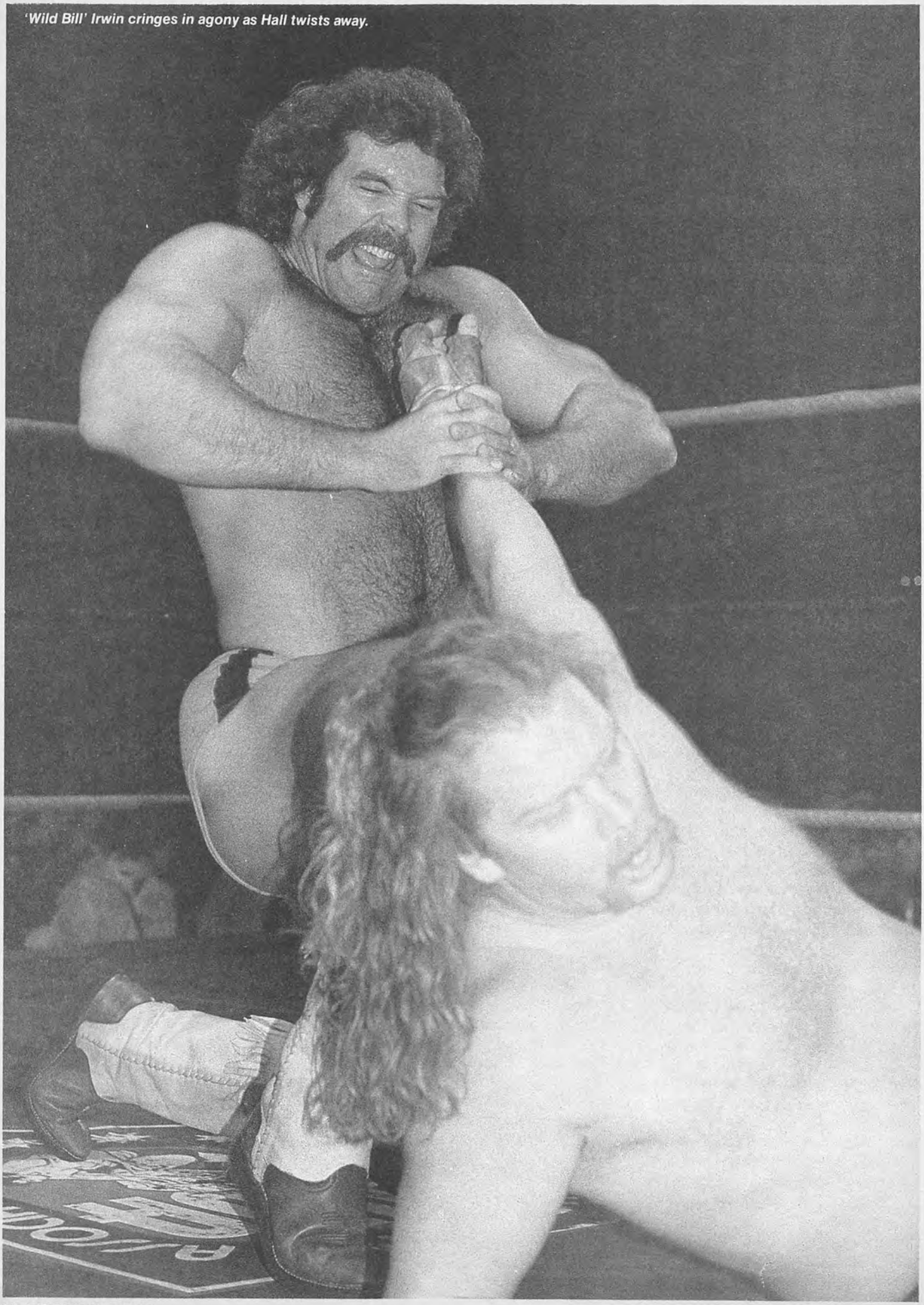
Although the compliments keep pouring in, some wrestling experts remain skeptical. While no one can dispute Scott's incredible strength, many feel he's lacking in the skill department. As one veteran writer put it:

"When I look at Scott Hall I see a young man who obviously has spent a great deal of time pumping iron in the gym. And as far as I'm concerned, that's the problem! Scott has "main event" strength, but his overall wrestling style is too one-dimensional and predictable. He has to start adding to his repertoire. Scott should spend less time working with the weights and more time sharpening up his wrestling skills. With the proper amount of work, this kid could someday be unstoppable!"

Hall *has* built up an impressive record of late. During the past several months since his arrival in the A.W.A., the Tom Selleck of wrestling has gone nearly undefeated both in solo and tag-team competition. Hall scored the biggest victory of his young career a few months back when he and partner Curt Henning defeated then A.W.A. tag-team champions Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal in a non-title match. Considering this big upset victory, many fans feel the Big Coyote is on a non-stop mission to greatness. Looking a bit deeper, however, it becomes apparent that Scott's road to greatness might just be paved with pitfalls!

1. QUESTIONABLE OPPOSITION: As stated above, Hall has gone nearly undefeated lately. The A.W.A. lists Scott as a top ten world contender. Sooner or later he's going to have to prove his worth. In order to be considered a major title threat, Hall must meet and defeat such tigers as Stan Hansen, Larry Zbyszko, Jimmy Garvin, and Mike Hayes.

2. PREDICTABLE STYLE: No he's not Abdullah the Butcher when it comes to style, but he isn't



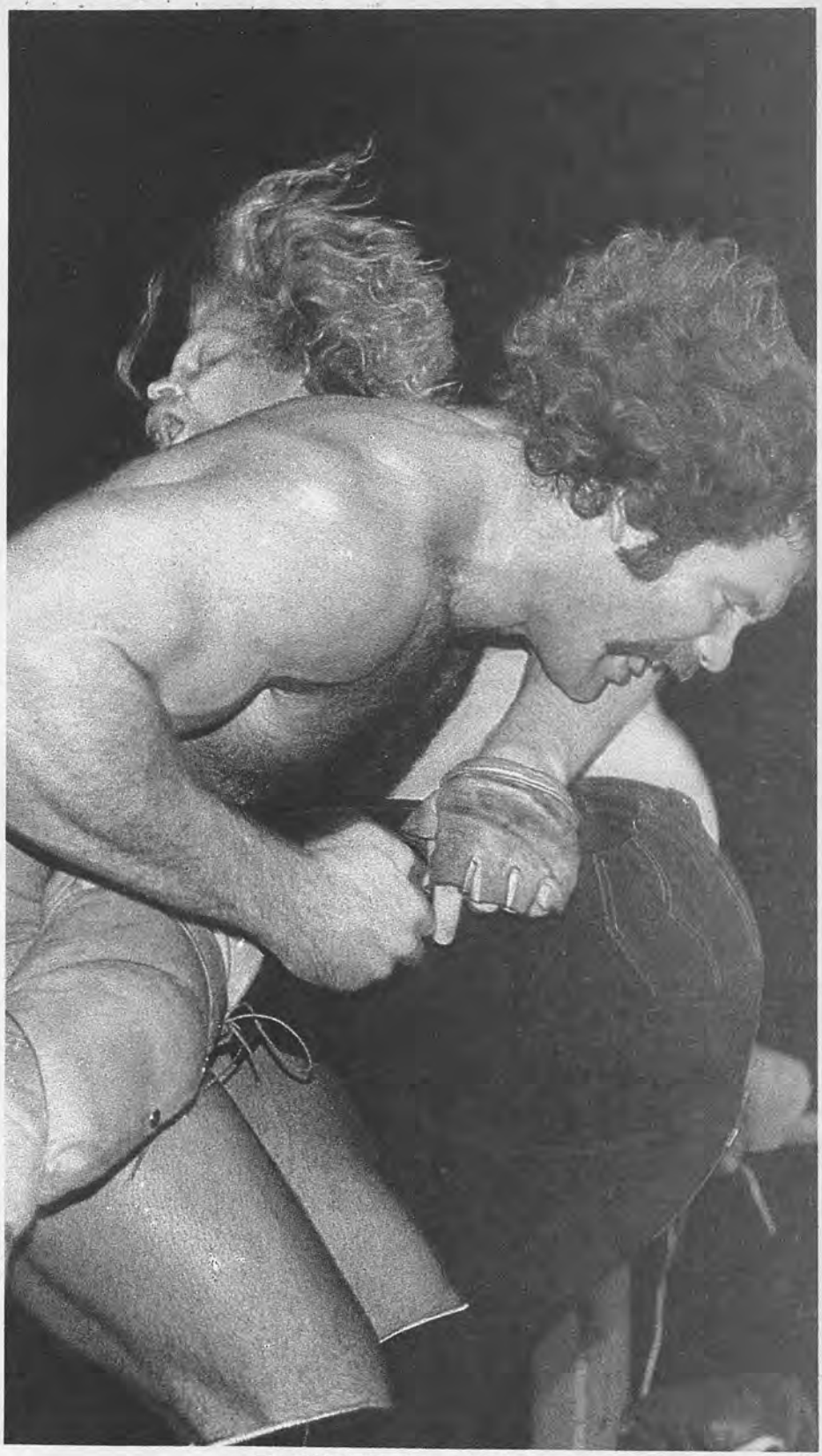
'Wild Bill' Irwin cringes in agony as Hall twists away.

exactly Ric Flair either. Up to this point in his career, Hall has gotten by on his strength alone and has done well. But as everyone knows, you had better have a lot more than just raw power if you're thinking about dethroning Rick Martel. The fact is, Martel has proven time after time his total superiority over wrestling's "strong boys." Perhaps it wouldn't be a bad idea for Scott to seek the aid of a good manager. A top manager would help add speed and variety to his ring style, creating a more well-rounded athlete and professional wrestler. An equal mixture of science and savagery would almost ensure Scott Hall's future success. Speaking of managers, the always cunning Larry Zbyszko offered his managerial services to Scott and received a big flat NO! I wonder why?!

3. CAREER DIRECTION: Rather than concentrating his efforts on one title, (Martel's) Hall has been regularly competing in both tag-team and singles competition. While the team of Scott Hall and Curt Henning have done well, we feel at this point Scott is far better off pursuing a solo career. Take a look at any top tag-team in the country. With the exception of maybe the Road Warriors, every member of every team has at some point done extremely well by themselves. Scott just can't rely on always having a partner by his side, whoever it may be. The most important ingredient a young wrestler can gain is experience. Scott must gain it on his own.

4. TOO MUCH TOO SOON?: Hey, it has happened more than once in the world of professional wrestling. Perhaps the most famous burnout case is WildFire Tommy Rich. Here was a kid who was so young and had so much so fast: talent, charisma, fan support, and the N.W.A. World Championship firmly strapped around his waist. Tommy was looking forward to a long and successful title reign but something went wrong. He lost the belt in a little over a week, and never quite fully recovered. Sure Rich is still a hit with the fans, but where are the big titles and big victories? Was Tommy Rich just a flash in the pan? Perhaps, but more likely is the possibility that he just couldn't handle the pressure of being a star. Fan pressure is unrelenting for some wrestlers, and on more than one occasion resulted in clean fan Faves turning bad. How will Scott react to this pressure if he feels any at all? Only time will tell. One thing's for certain, though, Scott hasn't been around that long and already he's a superstar.

With the right amount of effort, Scott Hall has what it takes to overthrow Hulk Hogan as wrestling's number one kingpin! We wish him the best of luck.



The 6'9" Hall is chopped in half by a knee to the mid-section.

STARS ON THE HORIZON

By Mike O'Hara

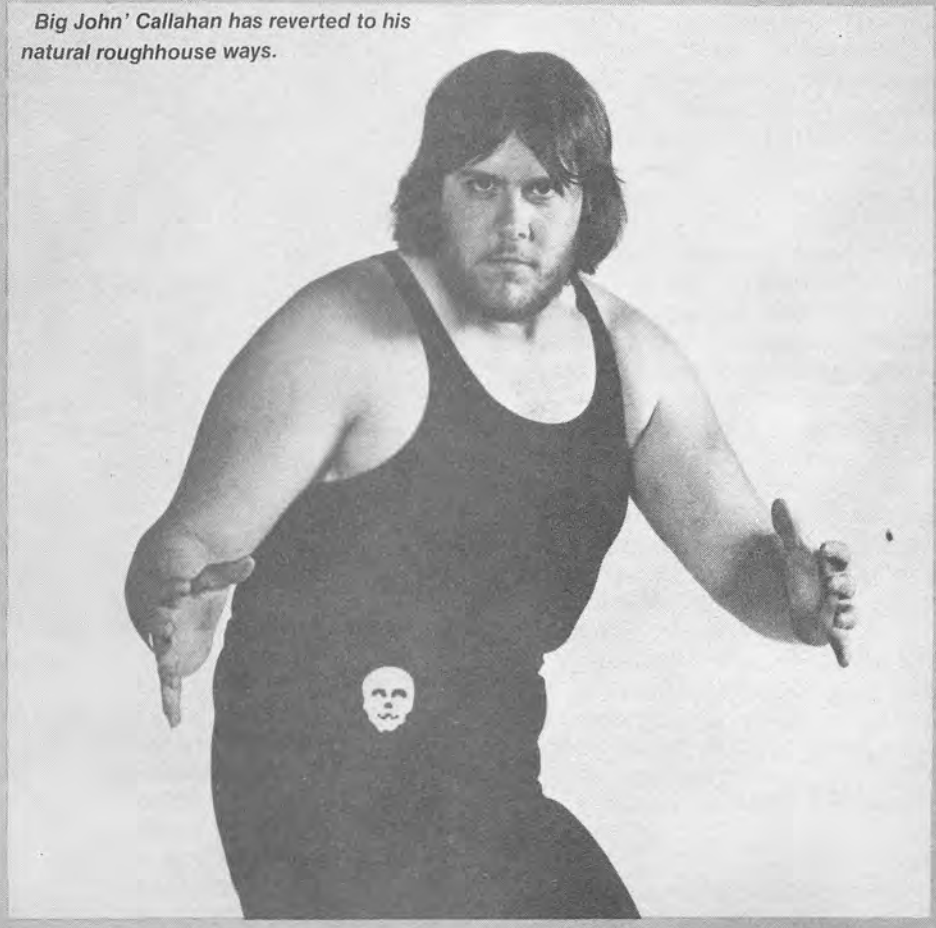
Going by no surname, this hairy fellow is called 'Rasputin the Rulebreaker .

Some say the drive which made America great is a thing of the past. People today aren't willing to put in the hard work that's necessary. This might be true in other fields, but in wrestling the young are as strong as ever. In our second issue, we profiled just some of the men and women working towards their goals. Here are a few more of the hundreds of rookie grapplers out there. All over, wrestling schools are popping up, and the gyms are filled with determined future champions.

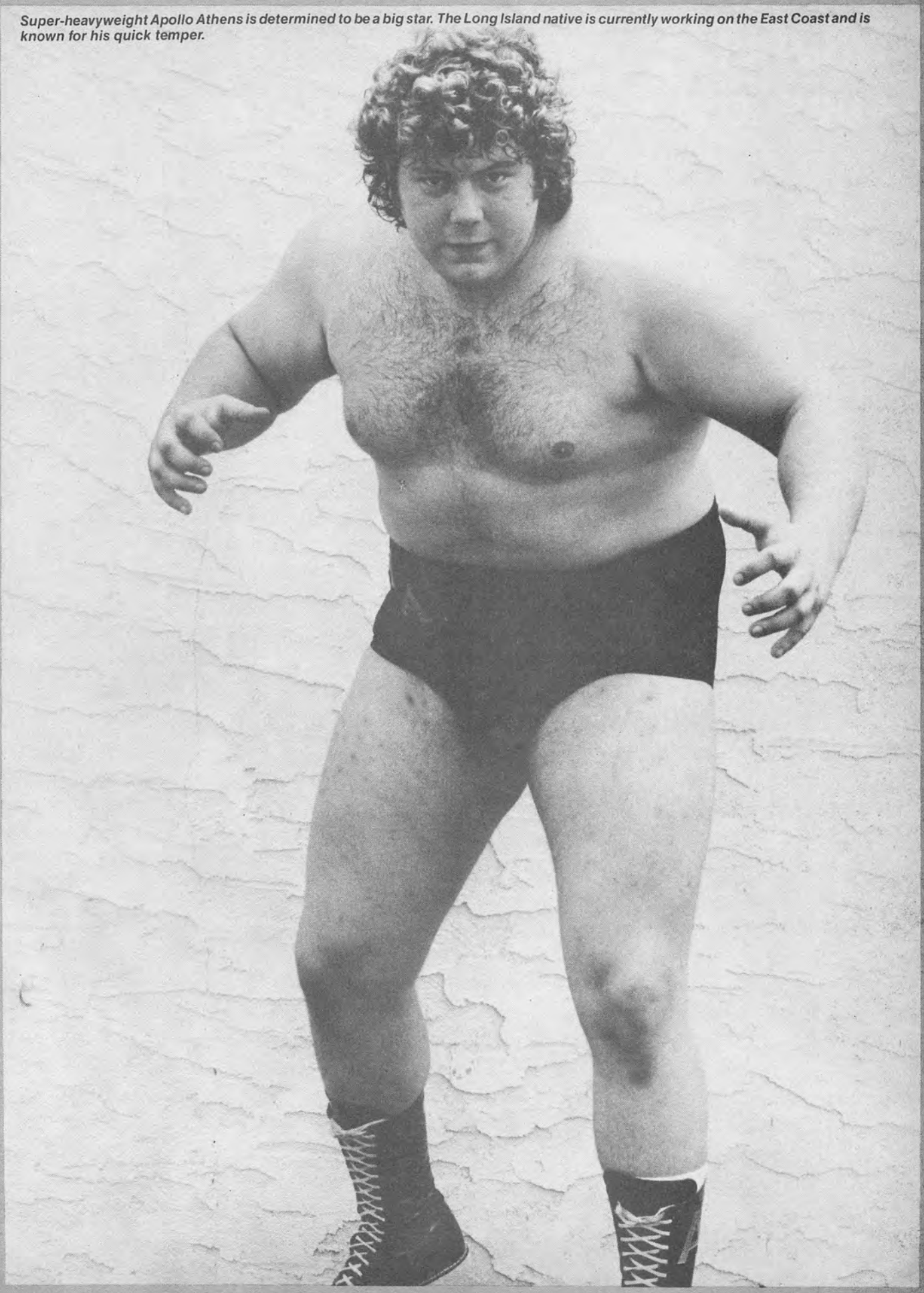
The money is one reason; wrestling is, after all, a lucrative profession. However, for most it's more than just a need for money. Wrestlers want the fans' dedication, the excitement and the pleasure of being the best. Pro wrestlers start out as fans, they're long-time wrestling groupies. Harley Race began his career as a valet to 'Country Boy' Humphrey. Wrestlers will always be into wrestling even when it isn't cool (apologies to Barbara Mandrell). When wrestling is no longer 'chic,' there will still be fans and there will still be wrestlers.

There are several excellent schools for would-be wrestlers. Killer Kowalski runs a program (Box 67, Reading, MA 01867) in Boston. Buddy Rogers, the original 'Nature Boy' has a school at Box 345, Westville, NJ 08093 and the Wild Samoans are at 295 Treadwell St., Hamden, CT 06514. Red Bastein can be contacted at Aerobics & Nautilus Unlimited, 10211 Balboa, Northridge, CA 91325, and Tony Altomore's school is at 518 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT. Mark Tendler runs a school at 75 Wedgewood Dr., Hauppauge, NY 11788 and Champ Thomas has a school and matches for lighter wrestlers at Box 18201, Denver, Colorado 80218.

Big John' Callahan has reverted to his natural roughhouse ways.



Super-heavyweight Apollo Athens is determined to be a big star. The Long Island native is currently working on the East Coast and is known for his quick temper.



ACTION PHOTO OF THE MONTH

ANGELO MOSCA VS. DICK SLATER

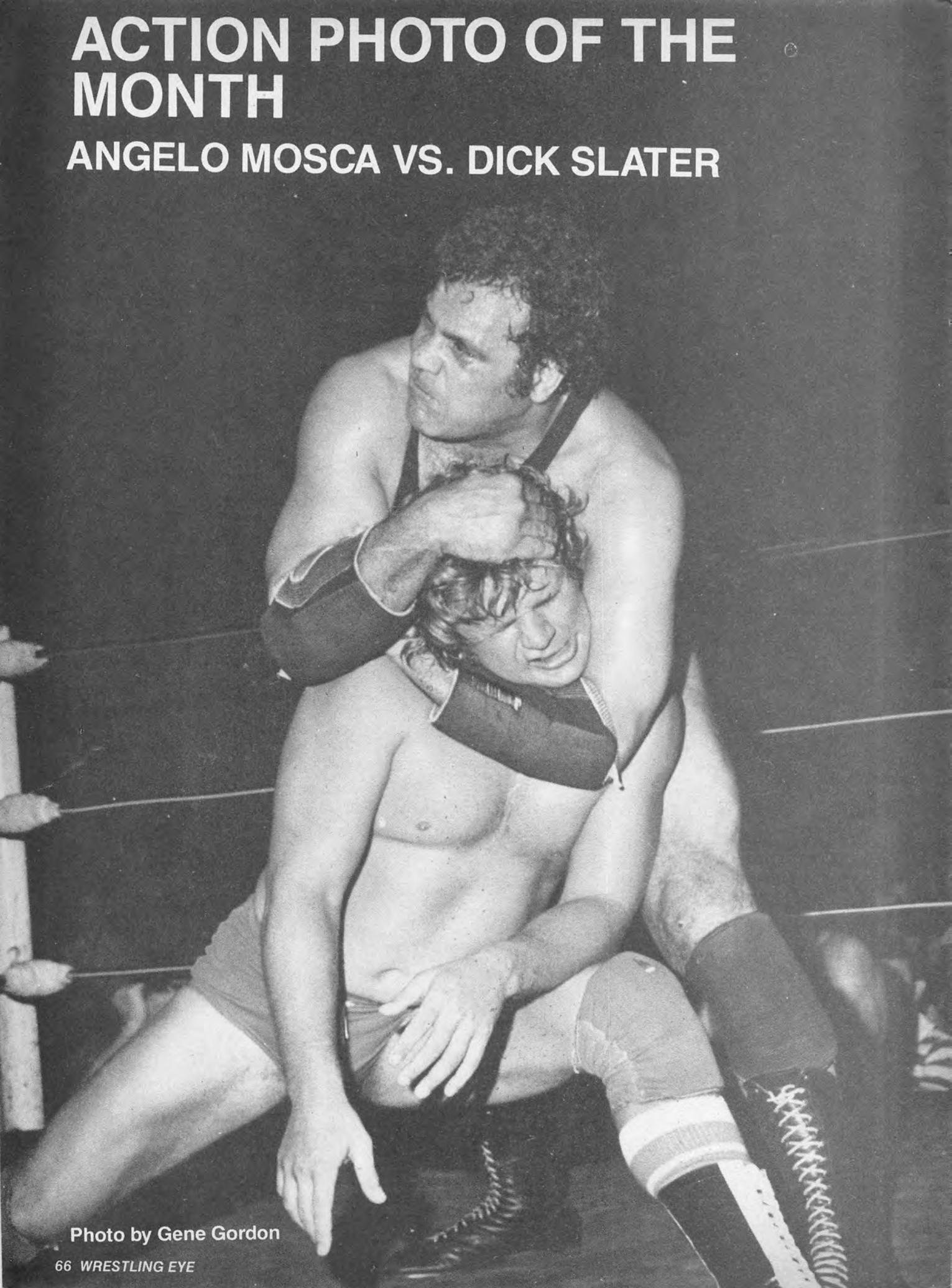


Photo by Gene Gordon

WRESTLING EYE'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

WRESTLING EYE

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (WWF) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION— HULK HOGAN

Tag Team Champions:
Greg Valentine and
Brutus Beefcake

Contenders
1. Tito Santana
2. Roddy Piper
3. Junkyard Dog
4. King Kong Bundy
5. Paul Orndorff
6. Magnificent Muraco
7. Randy Savage
8. Iron Sheik
9. Greg Valentine
10. Davey-Boy Smith

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (AWA) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION—STAN HANSEN

Tag Team Champions:
Scott Hall and Curt Henning

Contenders
1. Boris Zuchoff
2. Rick Martel
3. Sgt. Slaughter
4. Mongolian Stomper
5. Jerry Blackwell
6. Larry Zbyszko
7. Michael Hayes
8. Terry Gordy
9. Curt Henning
10. Nick Bockwinkle

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE (NWA) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION— RIC FLAIR

Tag Team Champions:
The Midnight Express

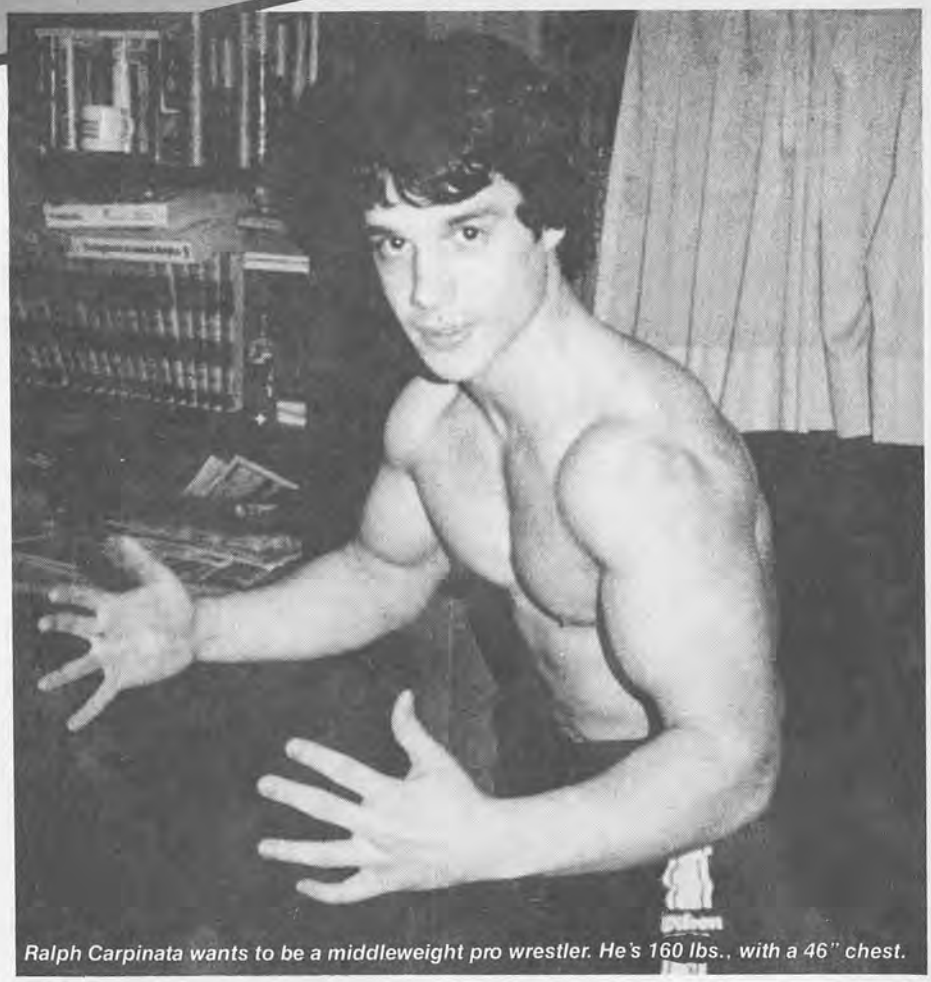
Contenders
1. Kerry Von Erich
2. Billy Hayes
3. Dusty Rhodes
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Kevin Von Erich
6. Lance Von Erich
7. Magnum T.A.
8. Tully Blanchard
9. Jerry Lawler
10. Harley Race

WOMEN'S RATINGS WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (WWF) WORLD'S CHAMPION—FABULOUS MOOLAH

Tag Team Champions:
Velvet McIntyre and
Desiree Petersen

Contenders
1. Sheri Martel (AWA-NWA Champ)
2. Debbie Combs
3. Candi Divine
4. Wendi Richter
5. Susan Green
6. Liz Chase
7. Le Lani Kai
8. Despina Montogas
9. Susan Starr
10. Desiree Petersen

LETTERS



Ralph Carpinata wants to be a middleweight pro wrestler. He's 160 lbs., with a 46" chest.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am a big fan of Ladies Wrestling. But, I am very disappointed that women matches are not televised more. I see more new ladies in WRESTLING EYE, but we don't see them in our area. It would not hurt if ladies matches were televised more often or even had their own show. In Japan, the women are very popular and have their own show. I would like to know where I could write to Vince McMahon Jr., so I can ask him to put more ladies on his programs.

Sincerely,
Michael Guerrero
New York, NY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: You can write to Vince McMahon Jr. at Titan Sports—81 Hollyhill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830.)

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Your magazine is much better than the other wrestling magazines. You cover the whole wrestling scene quite well and you provide interesting information that the other mags never talk about. I hope that you're going to have a fan letters page in WRESTLING EYE. My favorite wrestler is Hulk Hogan. In my book Hulk is the only world champion. Ric Flair and Rick Martel are wimps compared to him. Hulk would beat them without breaking a sweat if they had the guts to fight him. I saw Hulk on the 'A Team' and he made the show. He's the greatest! some of my other favorite wrestlers are Paul Orndorff, Roddy Piper, Hillbilly Jim, Jesse Ventura and Ricky Steamboat.

Keep up the good work,
Sharon Myers
Johnstown, PA

Dear Editor,

I found WRESTLING EYE a very interesting magazine. I've read the feature on Hulk Hogan: Profile Of A Champion and the feature on Who Is Cyndi Lauper. I feel that Cyndi Lauper should be barred from wrestling, period. She has no wrestling experience and her involvement in wrestling cost Wendi Richter the title, a month before Wrestlemania. Also if Cyndi Lauper hadn't gotten involved in wrestling, the Fabulous Moolah wouldn't had to lose her championship belt and title to Wendi.

If you'll note Ms. Richter's comment: 'I would never have won the title without her.', referring to Cyndi Lauper. If Cyndi Lauper is barred from wrestling and banned from all the arenas, there's no question Wendi Richter will lose the title. There's a lot of talent in the wrestling world and Cyndi Lauper isn't one of them. Wendi Richter isn't worthy of being the WWF Ladies' Champion. There are other women wrestlers who are better qualified to be champ.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Rivera
Queens, NY

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

When will MR. T. return to wrestling? I don't think wrestling will ever be the same since he left. In just one match he provided more excitement than anyone else has. MR. T. should go for a world title. Since he's friends with Hulk Hogan, he'll probably go for Rick Martel's AWA belt or the NWA crown of Ric Flair. I think he could beat both of them. I'd also like to see him wrestle Hulk Hogan in the future.

Ron Farkas
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Editor,

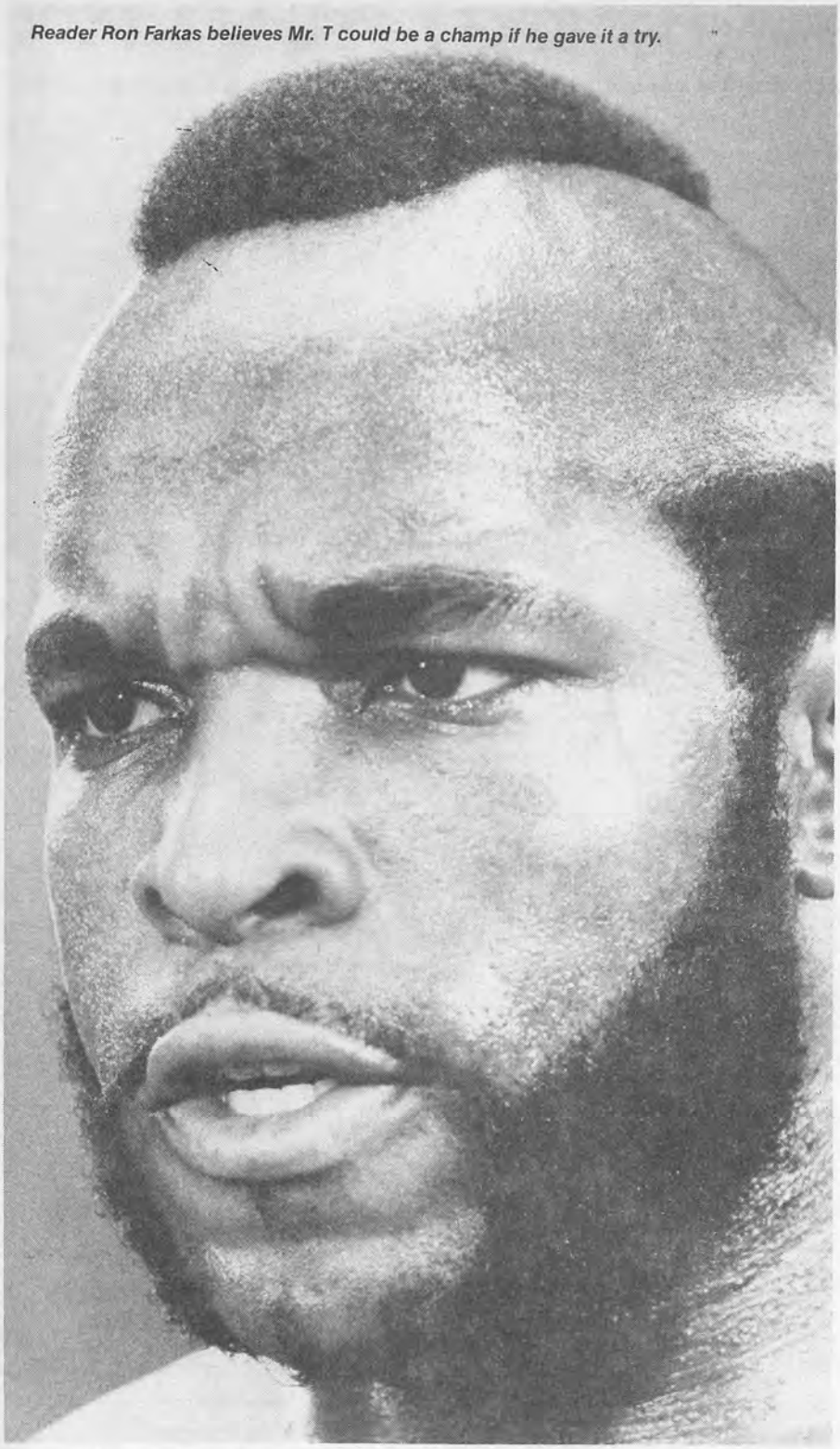
JERRY LAWLER IN 1986—that's all I want to say. He's the best wrestler around.

Steve Dunhill
Dallas, Texas

Dear Editor,

I just picked up a copy of WRESTLING EYE. It was great to see a whole section devoted to women wrestlers. The full-page picture on Pg. 71 of the airplane spin was great, too bad it was not a front shot. But, great action pictures like that, you don't see in other wrestling magazines. You will be getting my one-year subscription very soon.

Your Friend,
Jane Van Orden
West Palm Beach, Florida



Reader Ron Farkas believes Mr. T could be a champ if he gave it a try.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Why are there so many repeat wrestling shows on cable-tv? For instance on Saturdays, they have the NWA show from the South. Each week, they have the same wrestlers on. Is there a limit on wrestlers in this group? Dusty Rhodes, Tully Blanchard, Ric Flair and the Russians, don't they have any other competition? What about the girls in the NWA, why don't they ever have them on television? I get sick and tired of watching the same faces every week. They should have wrestling shows from different parts of the country.

Art Price
Trenton,
New Jersey

WRESTLING EYE:

I wanted to write and say that I was real impressed with your magazine. I've never read a magazine quite like yours. Your articles cut through the hype and get to the facts. Usually I read a magazine just for enjoyment, your magazine is different. Not only do I enjoy reading it but I also learn a lot about wrestling. Keep up the good work.

Rick Murphy
Leavenworth,
Kansas

Dear Champ Thomas,

I just caught your recent article in WRESTLING EYE and am very glad to see that there is someone who cares about the smaller guys. I'm about to enter Buddy Rogers' Wrestling School. I'm 5'7" and weigh 160 lbs. They want me to get my weight up 205. I'd much rather wrestle at my own weight, in your federation, if that is possible. I've included a photo of myself.

Ralph Carpinata
Belmar,
New Jersey

Dear Editor,

I've just read your second issue of WRESTLING EYE. I've got to tell you after watching wrestling for a good 20-years, and reading other magazines, your's is by far the best. It's great to see some one tell the truth for once. Your story on Ken Patera was great. The TV promoters tell you he's on tour. Ed Garea's story on the three different federations was great. Finally, an explanation on how they were formed and who runs them. And your just matter-of-fact short stories are fine. I liked your story on Hulk and his knee. I also liked the story on the 'Hammer' and whose son he is.

Please never change your format.

Michael Ojeda

WRESTLING EYE

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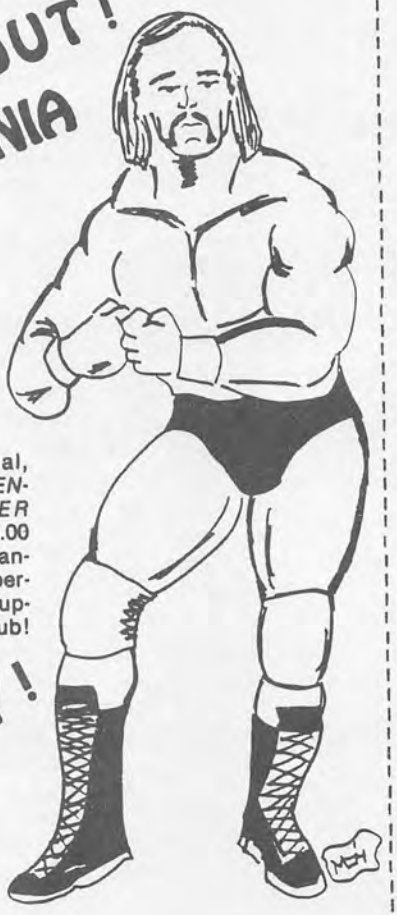

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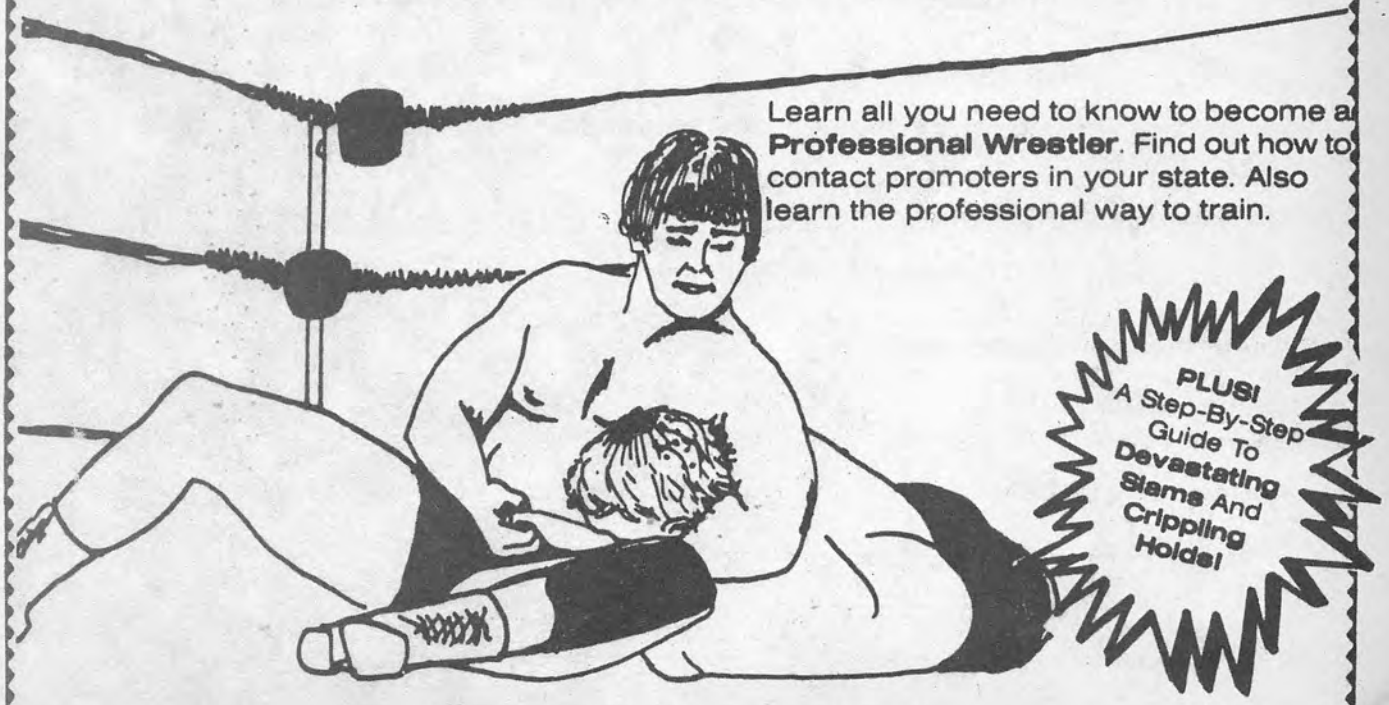

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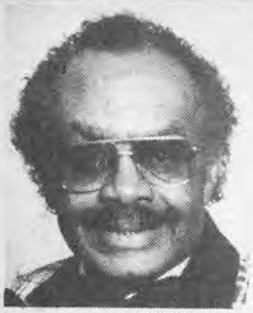

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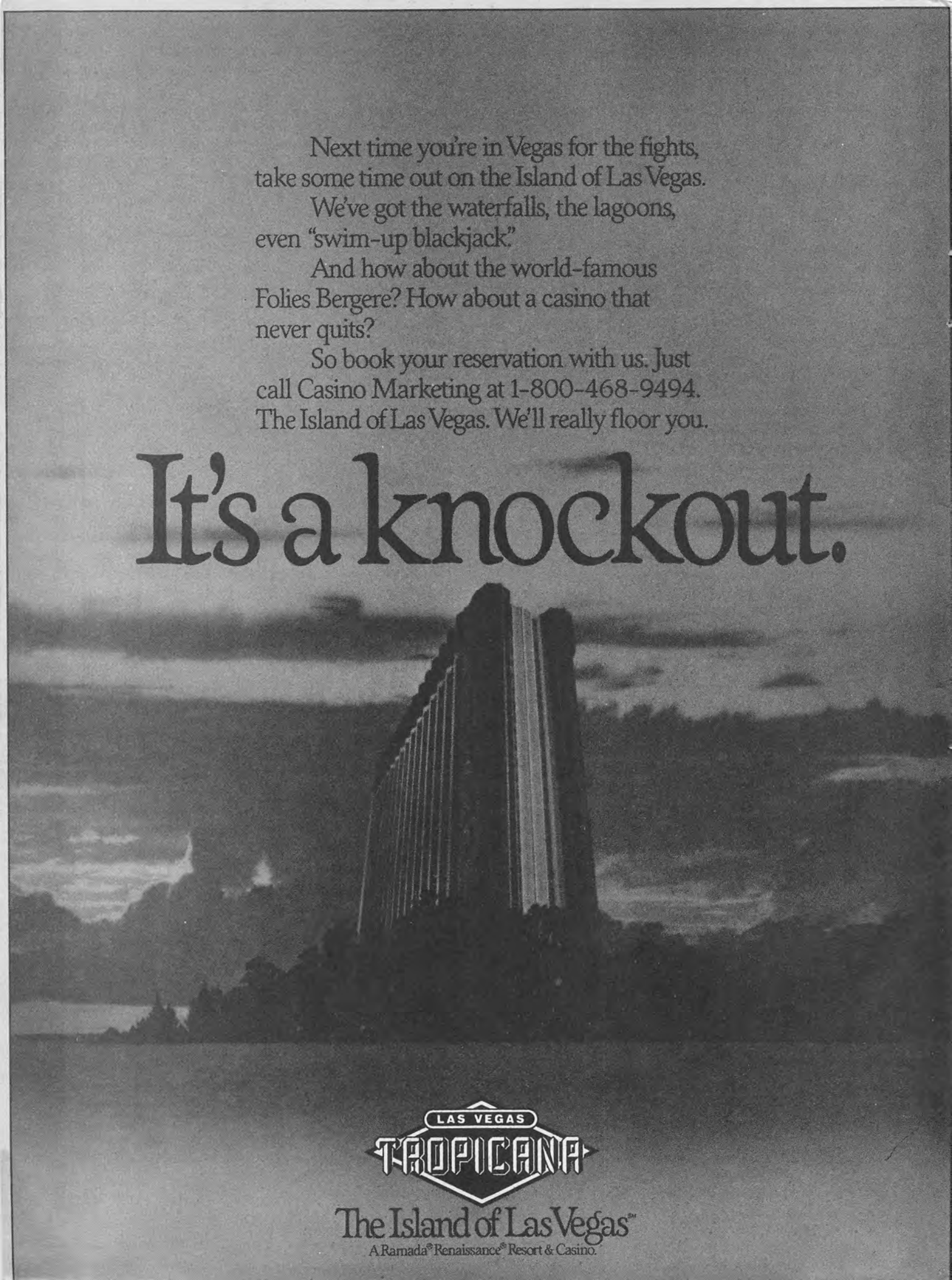
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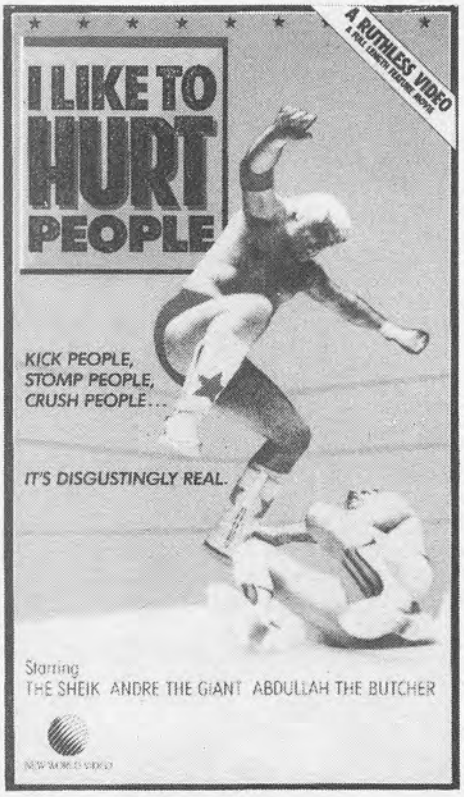

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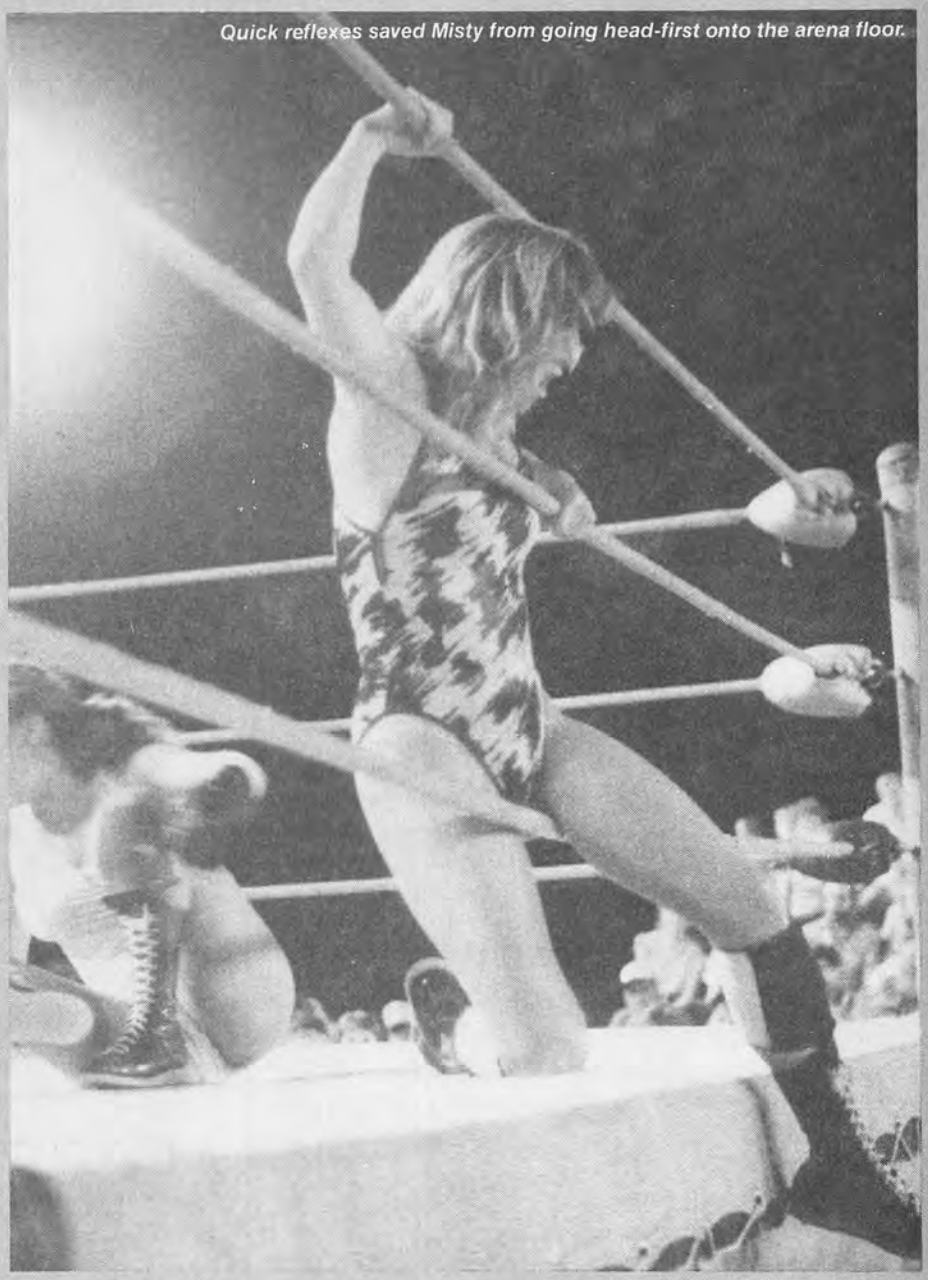
MISTY BLUE
WANTS TO CHALLENGE ALL

By Joshua Adams



Quick reflexes saved Misty from going head-first onto the arena floor.

MISTY BLUE from Glen Falls, New York holds the World's Women's Wrestling Championship, as recognized by the International Wrestling Federation based out of Boston, Massachusetts.

This writer recently had the opportunity to have an exclusive interview with Miss Blue for Wrestling Eye magazine.

Q. Misty, how long have you been champion and when did you win the championship?

A. I have been the holder of the World Championship since May 1st, 1985. I won the title in a tournament that was held by the International Wrestling Federation in Portland, Maine.

Q. Since winning the title, how can you claim to be the one world's champion when there are several other girls that also claim the honor?

A. Well as you know, Moolah has the World Wrestling Federation recognition after she won the belt from Wendi Richter in November. Sherry Martel has the claim as the American Wrestling Association girl champion. Neither Moolah nor Martel has accepted my challenge for a showdown at any wrestling venue.

Q. Why do you think they haven't accepted the challenge?

A. I can answer that very simply. I'm a better wrestler than either of the above-named "champions." I do feel that the AWA champion is a wrestler with a lot of talent and would like to meet her in a match.

Q. How did you enter into professional wrestling?

A. I was always interested in wrestling and saw an ad in a girl wrestling publication stating that Killer Kowalski, the former World Heavyweight Champion, was training girls for a pro wrestling career. I made contact with Mr. Kowalski and, well, the rest is history. Today I am THE World Girl Wrestling Champion.

Q. How tall are you and how much do you weigh?

A. I am five feet five inches tall and weigh 135 pounds.

Q. How ofter do you train and what training methods do you use?

A. I train every day. Some days it's intensive, while other days it's light. I alternate the training. If I have a championship match coming up I train real hard a day or two before the match. The day before the encounter I train my mind hard.

Q. What do you mean you train your mind hard?

A. I study my opponent. I try and get a video tape of her past matches and review them over and over again. I look for those shortcomings that she has. It pays off every time. I find her weak spots and attack her right there.

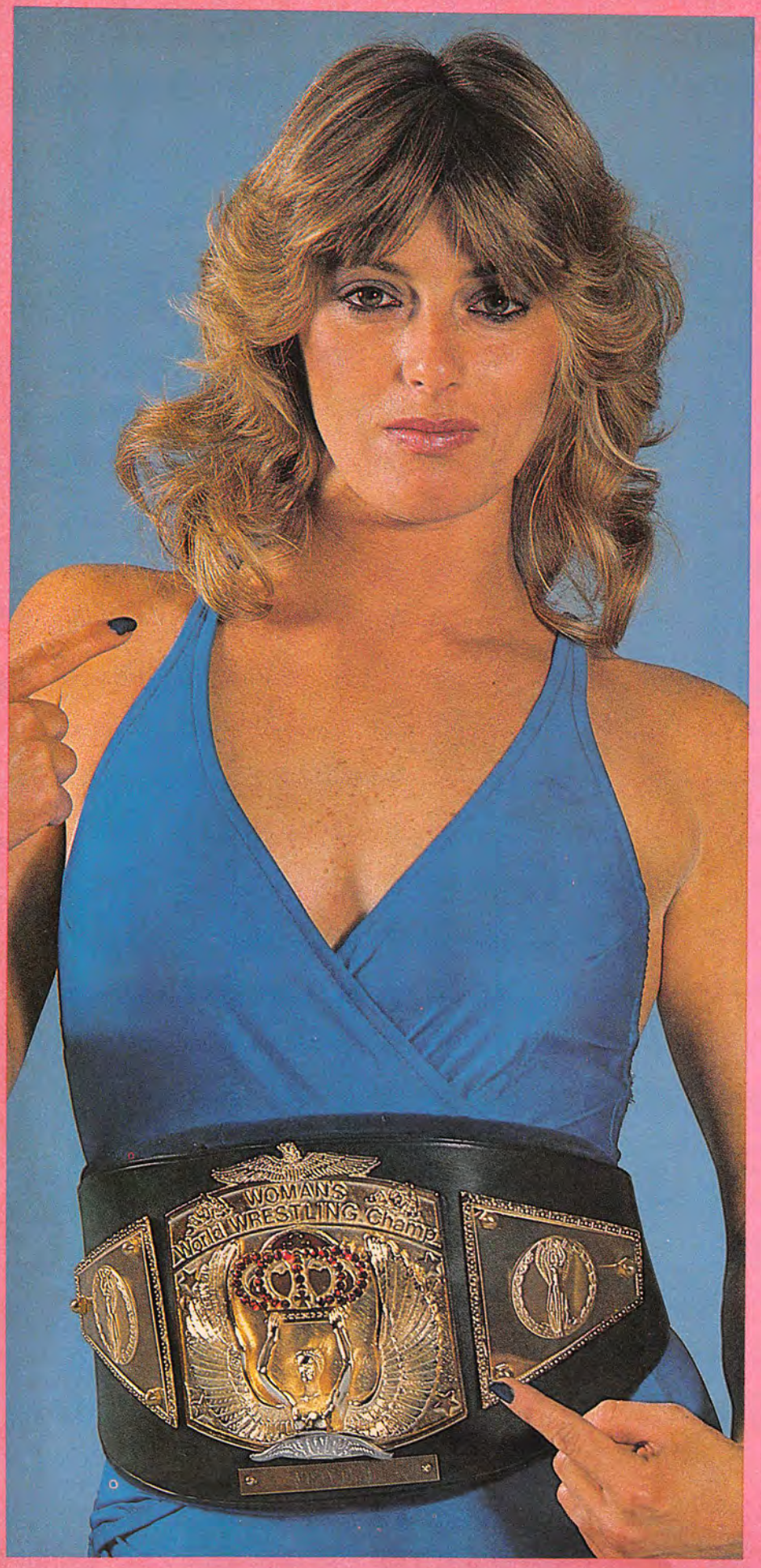
Q. Do you do that from the start of the match?

A. Sometimes I do, and other times I let her get her confidence up and then go for it. Like I said, it hasn't failed yet and I still have the championship.

Q. Do you really think that your challenge will be taken seriously by the "other" title claimants?

A. Yes, to a degree. But I do feel that by issuing the challenge to them via the pages of this magazine I will be taken seriously by the fans.

Q. Since winning the title where



have you defended the belt?
A. All over New England, parts of Canada, in Texas for the NWA office in Dallas. I was on World Class Wrestling's TV program defending my title. I have also put my title on the line for the Mid South Wrestling Association group. They promote all over the south. I have also taken the title to Puerto Rico, a number of Caribbean islands and I have been contacted by the promoters in the Far East to defend the title there. So you can see that my title is far from just a "regional" title.
Q. Do you have any favorite finishing hold?
A. I like to use a flying body press and also a bridge hold.
Q. Let me just run a few names off to you and please give me your comments.
A. Debbie Combs. One of the best girls in the business. She has all the makings of being a champion and I would like to give her a shot. I understand that she has mixed her career of wrestling with that of a singer and dancer.

Linda Dallas. One tough little gal. She is small, only 4 ft 11 inches but she is like a stick of dynamite. I have wrestled her several times and she is one dangerous gal.

Liz Chase. Miss Chase is a fine wrestler and even though I have not had the opportunity to meet her I am sure that we could have a classic match.

Moolah. Her social security check is waiting at the post office. She had a lot of talent and is a fine lady, however, she should take care of business from the ring apron as a manager and not as a wrestler.
Q. Misty, what do you think of mixed matches?
A. I have never been part of these matches. I do think that there are enough girl wrestlers around to let them just wrestle each other.
Q. Well, Misty, I just want to say thank you on behalf of all the readers of this magazine, and we support your idea to have an open challenge to the other girls that claim the title.
A. Thank You.

So, readers, that is an insight into one of the top flight girl wrestlers of the world today, Misty Blue, World Girl Wrestling Champion.

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